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Tajik Government, Opposition Talks Resume in Moscow

LD0604093194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Talks between the representatives of the government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition resumed at 1100 today in Moscow.

(Ramiro Perez) Ballon, the UN secretary-general's special envoy, and Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, while addressing the talks yesterday considered this activity a new stage of peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan.

Shukurjon Zuhurov, minister of labor and employment and head of the representatives of Tajikistan, expressed the hope and wishes of the legitimate government of Tajikistan. He pointed out that the government of Tajikistan is taking all measures to return all those people who have fled the country as a result of well-known events.

Otakhon Latifi spoke on behalf of the opposition.

We hope that the good intentions of our newly independent nation will come true at these talks and our compatriots will return to their permanent places of residence.

Iranian Envoy Terms Talks 'Amicable'

LD0504191994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The first round of direct talks between the representatives of the Tajik Government and the opposition was held in Moscow this afternoon, under UN auspices and attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A few minutes ago, in a telephone conversation, we asked our country's ambassador in Moscow about the manner in which the session had been held. He said:

[Begin recording] The talks—which started in Moscow today between the Tajik Government and the opposition—were held in a very amicable atmosphere, in the presence of (Pierre) Ballon, the representative of the UN secretary general. First he called on the two sides to proceed with the talks without expressing their opposing stances in detail and, in the meantime, to present their proposals to him.

As host and overseer, Kozyrev expressed the wish that the talks should definitely achieve a positive result. He declared his support for the talks and that of his government. Then Zuhurov, the Tajik labor minister, who is the representative of the Tajik Government, made a speech. He expressed the hope that, since the people of Tajikistan have suffered hardship during this period and are very much in favor of peace, the talks will lead to peace as desired by the people.

Latifi, as the representative of the opposition, then began to speak. First he thanked all countries which have helped and received refugees, including our country, Iran. While declaring his readiness for the talks, he stressed that any agreement reached at the talks should be in accordance with UN principles. [end recording]

Lavrov Says UN Consent for CIS Peacekeeping Unnecessary

MK0604075094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Russia Does Not Need any Authorization for Peacekeeping in CIS. They Think in Moscow That the Operations Are Fully Legitimate"]

[Text] The UN headquarters has distributed as a UN General Assembly and Security Council document a joint statement by the Russian Federation Defense and Foreign Ministries saying that Russia carries out peacekeeping operations in CIS countries fully in accordance with the UN Charter and that it needs no "authorization" from the community of nations or the CSCE to carry them out. The document, the text says, is a response to statements made by some politicians and publications in foreign mass media regarding the "ambiguity" of the Russian Federation's peacekeeping mission on the territory of countries that are part of the CIS.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov commented on the joint statement at the request of your SEGODNYA correspondent. He said that Moscow has never raised the question of legitimizing its peacekeeping operations on CIS territory, but it has asked and is still asking the United Nations for support. Financial considerations are not the least important factor here: Russia has been contributing large sums of money to finance peacekeeping forces, whereas its own operations in the CIS have been seen by the international community as something that does not fall under the definition of "peacekeeping." We think, however, Sergey Lavrov continued, that they are part of a general effort to ensure global security. Russia believes that its peacekeeping activity is in no way at odds with the UN Charter—on the contrary, the Charter encourages regional agreements to participate in the settlement of conflicts. There are just different kinds of operations, Mr. Lavrov explained. One of them is an operation under a UN flag, authorized by the Security Council. In this case the peacekeeping forces must be multilateral, and expenses involved must be shared in accordance with the specified amounts of contributions. Another type is an operation on the basis of regional agreements, something that is taking place in Liberia. The UN secretary general, the deputy foreign minister said, fully shares this point of view and has no doubts as to the Russian actions' legitimacy.

Official Denies Violations of CFE Agreement

LD0504160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A Russian military official has denied Western media allegations saying Moscow was violating the CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe] agreement. "Though the CFE deal became valid from July 17, 1992 its clause on flank restrictions, which is of NATO's specific concern, comes into force in 40 months' time, i.e. after November 16, 1995," head of the international department of the Russian Armed Forces' General Chief of Staff Georgiy Pavlodyuk told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

He said Russia's current strength in conventional weapons was slightly in excess of what is envisaged by the treaty and that "we have a further 18 months" in which to comply with CFE terms.

Pavolodyuk said international inspections carried out in Russia had confirmed that Moscow was meeting its schedule of conventional weapons cuts.

He thinks the flank restrictions were damaging to Russia's interests. Under the treaty, Moscow is entitled to deploy on its Leningrad and North Caucasian flanks only 700 tanks, 580 APCs and 1,280 artillery pieces.

Pavlodyuk said the Russian president had called on other signatory states for a review of the flank restrictions clause in respect to Russia. The move follows Moscow's concern about national security as well as economic and social problems arising from troop withrawals from Eastern Europe and the Baltic states. "We want those restrictions to be lifted at least for some time before those problems have been resolved. However, there has been no positive response from our partners yet," Pavlodyuk said.

He made it clear that the Russian government was not wanting to act unilaterally.

The CFE agreement was signed by 28 European states as well as the United States and Canada.

Diplomat Cited on Revision of CFE Flank Quotas

MK0504094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report under the "Security" rubric: "Americans Insist on Observance of Conventional Forces. Moscow Intends To Work for Higher Quota in Caucasus"]

[Text] NATO will decline all of Russia's attempts to alter the terms of agreement on conventional forces in Europe that limit Russian military presence on the Northern and Southern flanks. This was stated on Sunday by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in the NBC "Meet the Press" program. He advised that he had discussed this topic with the leaders of countries which the possible changes may affect most, and met with no support.

Limits on arms under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty go into effect next November. Under the document, Russia is entitled to keep on its Northern (Leningrad military district) and Southern (Caucasus) flanks not more that 580 armored personnel carriers, 700 tanks, and 1,280 artillery pieces per flank. Moscow, however, is pressing for a revision of the flank quotas so as to be in a position to increase its military presence in the Caucasus region. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Russia does not agree to make up for the strengthening of the Caucasus grouping by making corresponding cuts in the Northern flank. The newspaper also reports with reference to sources in the American intelligence service that Russia would like to get its Southern quota increased by 2,000 armored personnel carriers, 400 tanks, and 500 artillery pieces.

Oleg Sokolov, head of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry defense department, to whom your SEGODNYA correspondent turned for clarification, stated that the question of flank quota revision is still on the agenda. He pointed to the circumstance that the conventional arms treaty was signed in 1990 during a standoff between the military blocs. Today the situation in Europe has radically changed. We count, Mr. Sokolov said, on understanding of our concern and will continue consultations with those parties to the treaty who have to do with solving the question. Precedents of these kinds of exceptions already exist, the diplomat pointed out.

Border Troop Commanders Meeting Views Problems

LD0504200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—A meeting of the Commonwealth Council of Border Troop Commanders set up a coordinating service here today.

The meeting was for the first time attended by representatives of all commonwealth states to discuss interaction of border troops, meeting participants told a news conference. They have also met Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Commander-in-chief of the Russian Border Troops Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev told correspondents they also dwelt on the future concept of protection of the commonwealth outer borders to include purely military issues and a system of mutual obligations in provision of commonwealth security. The concept will be submitted for discussion by fall 1994.

The meeting discussed stabilization of the situation at the Tajik-Afghan border and supported proposals of the Commonwealth Council of Defence Ministers of March 16 on measures to stabilize the situation at the commonwealth southern border. It was decided to take urgent measures in order to prevent uncontrolled migration in the commonwealth, as well as drug and arms trafficking.

The Russian side informed the meeting participants of preparation of bilateral agreements on border protection with the commonwealth states, which have not signed corresponding documents.

The Russian delegation held bilateral negotiations with Commander of the Ukrainian Border Troops General of the Army Valeriy Gubenko on preparations of a memorandum on cooperation in the protection of borders of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Asked about joint protection of borders with some commonwealth states, Nikolayev said the border with some states, including Armenia, is considered common due to the coincidence of strategic interests.

Nikolayev told ITAR-TASS upon the news conference completion, the new agreements provide for open borders within the commonwealth despite a number of limits. Joint check points may be set up on major areas on the border with Ukraine.

The border with Azerbaijan provokes concern, as 42 border trespassers, including 15 citizens of third states (Iran, Pakistan, the United States, Canada and others) were detained at the border within three days of March alone, together with the contraband and unlicensed cargo worth of some 60 million rubles.

There are positive changes in negotiations with Azerbaijan on a possibility of joint protection of both domestic and outer borders, he said.

The border with the Baltic states is being equipped, although it costs about one billion rubles to equip one kilometer of the border.

Nikolayev said there are no Russian border guards in the Chechen republic but they are ready to protect the Chechen border with Georgia and Azerbaijan as soon as corresponding documents are signed.

Ukraine for the first time signed documents on border issues and it is a positive result of today's meeting, said Nikolayev.

CIS Official Urges Joint Effort To Solve Karabakh Problem

LD0604092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oksana Runova]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 6 TASS—"It is very important that not only Russia but also the entire Commonwealth of Independent States should participate in the effort to solve the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh", believes Mikhail Krotov, chief of the secretariat of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS. "Participating in the negotiations, CIS member-countries assume the responsibility for the decisions to be taken, and this creates additional political guarantees that the arrangements reached will be implemented".

A delegation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries, headed by Speaker of Kyrgyzstan Parliament Meditkhan Sharimkulov, has just returned form the zone of the conflict. The delegation met with leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. The trip was made on the decision of the fourth plenary meeting of the assembly. The request for the assembly to continue a peacemaking mission was made by both sides participating in the conflict.

The plan for settlement, known as the Russian plan, although it coincides with the CSCE plan in many aspects, has been discussed at the negotiations. Both sides want an earlier settlement of the conflict, but each fears that agreements can be broken and that the opposing side may take advantage of the ceasefire and troops disengagement, Krotov told a briefing. Parliamentarians' purpose is to create an instrument for reliable political guarantees and to dispel distrust.

The main purpose is to end bloodshed. At the stage of settlement of the conflict, much depends on the executive authorities, Krotov said. On April 15 the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Governments of the CIS countries will be held in Moscow, and the problem will be tackled at the level of presidents and prime

ministers. Matters of political settlement will be considered at the subsequent stage. The role of parliament will increase. The chief purpose of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS at present is to create an atmosphere favourable for negotiations, Krotov said. This in the aim of another meeting of parliamentarians to be held in Bishkek.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Apr

LD0604064094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0535 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 6 ITAR-TASS— No single topic is highlighted by the Russian national press on Wednesday. "The rejection of illusions is characteristic of Russia's foreign policy," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) writes today. Chairman of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Vladimir Lukin believes that "Russia has begun to treat seriously its national interests which have acquired a new significance, and it tends to defend these interests more persistently. In short, this process normalizes the Russian foreign policy which is being pursued in a democratic manner on the basis of public opinion, political discussions and consensus. A new trend has become evident in Russian-American relations. It would be wrong to overlook this or delay even for a short time the familiarization of the general public with the latest developments, to say nothing about blacking this out. It would be wrong both in the foreign and domestic political contexts".

"It is quite clear, and (Kazakhstan's President Nursultan) Nazarbayev (who recently called for the creation of a Euro Asian union to replace the former Soviet Union) knows that with Yeltsin in Russia and Kravchuk in Ukraine no union will be created (the belowezhskaya pushcha syndrome). But Nazarbayev is looking ahead, to the future not of one or another president, but to the future of Russia and Kazakhstan. And in this respect, he sees farther ahead than the Kremlin. In addition, Nazarbayev has another good thing going for him—he did not participate in the liquidation of the USSR and in forming an emasculated commonwealth out of its shapeless fragments. And then Almaty does not have a sore western Ukraine which Kiev has, and it does not have the sick thirst for power next to God's (who does not exist in Yeltsin's atheistic educational background), which the Russian president is suffering from. [no closing quotation mark as received]

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports on the Tajik-Tajik dialogues in Moscow, it comments: "The pre-history of these negotiations makes it clear that they will not proceed easily. At least in the first round, the parties (the official Government of Tajikistan and the opposition) are hardly likely to achieve serious results". The same newspaper declares that "Washington is unhappy about the plan for restarting the Armenian nuclear power station". "Whereas Washington is striving to help Yerevan with bread supplies, its stance with regard to the intention of the Armenian Government to revive the nuclear power station is directly opposite".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with the former deputy chairman (in charge of intelligence and counterintelligence) of the committee for the protection of the Soviet state border Lieutenant- General Boris Agapov, who is now vice president of the Ingush Republic. Agapov says that (Russia's) border troops are unable to ensure due protection of the border. For this purpose there exist border units of the land forces."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI focuses on the country's national economy. "In a normal market economy, the trader is usually the first to give in by reducing prices and ensuring profits by stepping up turnover. When this mechanism begins operating in this country, it will be possible to say that another important component of a civilized market has taken root. But for the time being, it is impossible to do without an active intervention on the part of the state. This applies above all to the reorganization of loss-making enterprises".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published an interview with General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in Moldova. "If you ask me whether it is normal for an army of one state to be located on the territory of another, I will reply: No, it is not normal. Should it be withdrawn? Undoubtedly. But when this should be done is another question. As soon as political and economic conditions are created for the withdrawal".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carried an interview with a Russian Orthodox Church dignitary, Metropolitan Pitirim of Volokolamsk and Yuriyev. The metropolitan says: "In any situation we should set ourselves specific tasks that can be accomplished with a view to upgrading the dignity of the individual. A war is now underway not between the ideas of believers and their flesh and blood, but against the forces of darkness in this century. The individual is being depraved by all available means of economic, moral, technical and propaganda influence. The aim is to reduce man to the level of unthinking satisfaction of his vital needs and in contravention to the laws of communal living".

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Vasiliy Vershinin, chairman of a State Duma subcommittee, who predicts that "one half of all collective and state farms is doomed to collapse, there will be a sharp drop in food supplies. The intervention of western economies in our agrarian sector will grow. We shall have to spend huge resources to purchase food and finance foreign farmers. There will no longer be any need for the army, missiles and submarines. What are they good for? If the West suspends food supplies for two or three weeks, we shall surrender without resistance".

Chernomyrdin Urges U.S. To Lift Trade Restrictions

LD0604140194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and a delegation of U.S. congressmen discussed a broad range of issues of Russian-American relations at a meeting on Wednesday, above all in the economic sphere.

Valeriy Grishin, deputy head of the Russian Government's press service, told journalists after the meeting that congressmen expressed support for reforms conducted by the present Russian Government.

The sides also discussed how to settle the conflict in former Yugoslavia and the participation of Russia and the United States in peace efforts.

Congressmen expressed satisfaction with rates of economic reforms in Russia. For instance, Republican minority leader Robert Michael said that he plans to make a statement, after his return to the U.S., on the need for more active participation of U.S. businessmen in Russian investment projects.

Chernomyrdin said during the discussion of the recent decision by the International Monetary Fund to appropriate the second part of the systematic credit to Russia that the Russian Government did not and does not bank on western aid and intends to earn money on the world market on its own.

In this connection, the premier pointed to the need for lifting unjustified Western restrictions containing Russia's access to world markets.

Rybkin Views Civic Peace Accord With U.S. Delegation

LD0504134794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—"Deputies of the State Duma are thoroughly analyzing the draft agreement on civic peace in Russia and think it can be concluded," Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin told today a visiting U.S. Congress delegation headed by Congress democratic majority leader Richard Gephardt.

Despite press reports claiming the Duma's unwillingness to consider the "intermediate document", the upgraded draft was submitted to the Duma by presidential structures on April 4 and has been analyzed by committees, commissions, factions and deputy groups, head of the duma press service Viktor Cheremukhin told ITAR-TASS.

In his words, the U.S. congressmen were inspired by Rybkin's words that the civic peace agreement will be concluded by representatives of the three power branches and party leaders and remain open to all political forces of society.

Partnership Agreement Signing on 21 Apr 'Possible'

LD0504143894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1344 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Beskromnyy]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—An outline agreement on Russia's accession to the Partnership for Peace program will possibly be signed on 21 April. This was announced today by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry's press center.

He noted that the forthcoming visit to Brussels by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev would be crucial in determining Russia's stand on this issue; Kozyrev will not only sign the outline agreement, but also hand to NATO leaders a presentation document defining specific conditions on which Russia intends to cooperate within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program.

Churkin Discusses Russian Role in Partnership

LD0504133794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin held a news conference for Russian and foreign journalists at the foreign ministry's press center. The conference was devoted to the Partnership for Peace program and Russia's participation in it. This is part of what the deputy minister said:

[Begin Churkin recording] For us, the issue is whether the Partnership for Peace program fits our own ideas and our own concept of pan-European partnership. I'd like to recap on the two possibly fundamental elements of our idea of pan-European partnership.

First, development of Euro-Atlantic interaction through the transformation of the CSCE into an effective pan-regional political organization, and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council into a structure for military-political cooperation that is independent but closely linked to the CSCE. The aim is to coordinate the efforts of NATO, the European Union, Council of Europe, West European Union and CIS towards strengthening stability and security, peacekeeping and protection of national minorities' rights in Europe. Second, growth of cooperation under North Atlantic Cooperation Council auspices, enlisting the neutral states of Europe, including to put into effect the Partnership for Peace program, on the

basis of equal rights and conversion of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council into an independent body with a small secretariat.

The North Atlantic Cooperation Council could become a pan- European laboratory for peacekeeping, greater military openness, and conversion of military industries.

I wish to point out that our concept is broader. In our view, and this is explained by our positive opinion of the idea behind Partnership for Peace, it fits fairly well into our own Russian concept of how pan-European partnership should develop and in which directions the process to strengthen European security should move.

What isn't the Partnership for Peace program? It is not a new international treaty imposing new obligations on its members. When Russia joins the program, it will not be accepting any new legal obligations in respect of NATO, just as NATO will not be taking on any new obligations in respect of Russia. Therefore, the question sometimes asked of whether this will drag us into something we don't want can be very simply answered: since there are no obligations we cannot be pulled into anything against our will.

Kozyrev, Kostikov Remarks on 'Partnership' Clarified

MK0504095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Gornostayev report in the "Details" column: "Two Sides of Partnership for Peace. Kozyrev and Kostikov Have Meant Different Things"]

[Text] By the end of last week Russia's top officials gave the press cause to talk about confusion within the state structures on a foreign policy issue currently being given much prominence: Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace program. Or rather, about the time frames mentioned last Friday [1 Apr].

As is known, during U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Moscow in mid-March his Russian colleague Pavel Grachev stated that the Russian Federation will sign the Partnership at the end of March. On Thursday, 31 March, Russian Federation presidential press spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov announced that the process of acceding to the Partnership could take between six to seven months, thereby shifting, as it seemed, the date for joining the program at least until September-October. Citing Boris Yeltsin's opinion, Kostikov attributed this to the fact that the "Partnership for Peace formula does not quite correspond to the scope of Russia's political and military power." Next day, Friday, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists that Russia will accede to the Partnership as early as April.

It turned out, however, that the presidential press secretary and the head of the Foreign Affairs Ministry were speaking about different things. Subsequently Kozyrev's supposition that Kostikov was misunderstood was also confirmed.

Commenting Saturday, at the request of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, on the current situation, Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Valeriy Manilov said that "everyone who has commented on the Partnership for Peace has meant different things: First, the intention to join the framework agreement," which is only a statement of intent and does not impose any obligations on the signatory. This was also what Andrey Kozyrev meant. Second, there is also "another aspect: a representative [prezentativnoye], individual agreement with NATO defining specific terms on which the state intends to cooperate with this bloc within the Partnership for Peace framework."

Owing to its strategic importance, the resolution of this question, as it appears, is not the domain of separate departments. In the very near future, the Partnership—its substantive, not declarative, part—will be considered by the Russian Security Council, which will task the corresponding structures to develop and substantiate Russia's position on Partnership for Peace which would not be detrimental to its national interests. After this the Russian Federation president will make a decision in the shape of an edict or his approval of the Security Council protocol. Then, according to Valeriy Manilov, "I suppose that this decision will be presented to parliament for ratification."

Yesterday Pavel Grachev stated that his department's and the Foreign Ministry's views on Partnership for Peace coincide. In addition, he said that he does not see any disagreements on this issue between the government and presidential structures, referring to his talks with Yeltsin.

Shakhray on Prospects for Joining Partnership for Peace

LD0504142894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—"A decision has to be made on Russia's participation in the NATO 'Partnership for Peace' program, not only at the level of executive power; agreement is also necessary with the legislative power." This was stated today in an exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent by State Duma deputy, Minister for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy Sergey Shakhray.

According to him, "this is such a conceptual step in the development of the country that it is necessary to debate it at all levels, including the parliament." The Russian leadership must "exercise the maximum of coordination in its approach to decisionmaking, because the State Duma will have to ratify this agreement later."

Sergey Shakhray would view Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace program as an "obvious advantage" and he even compared it to "overcoming the iron curtain."

As a disadvantage, he mentioned the fact that "after the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact Russia should have thought about setting up a new security system." "One must remember that Russia is a Eurasian state, and it is still unclear how its participation in the NATO initiative will reflect on its relations with other CIS countries and its Eastern neighbors, for example China", he said. "We are also worried that our country might lose markets for weapons."

Sergey Shakhray agreed that if Russia were to join the Partnership for Peace program, it could have a special status. The minister believes that "it is necessary to debate this matter at the Security Council, then at the Federation Council, and to make a final decision once all positions have been coordinated."

Speaking about a possible timetable for Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace program, Sergey Shakhray said that "this process will probably take one or two months."

'Partnership' Issue 'Decided,' Despite Confusion

PM0604101394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev article: "Russia Will Sign Up to NATO Program Anyhow, But It Needs Further Work"]

[Text] There has been no split in the Russian leadership over the "Partnership for Peace" program proposed by NATO, Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev stated.

Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, as previously assumed, plans to visit Brussels in mid-April and perform the formal act of Russian accession to the partnership program, which has already been signed by 14 countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR.

The subject of the existence of sharp differences in the Russian leadership arose in connection with contradictory statements by presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Kostikov told journalists that it could take Russia six or seven months to adopt a final decision on the partnership program. Whereas the defense minister, answering a question from journalists following his meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who is in Moscow, stated that the government's position has not changed. The Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs have prepared a joint document which has been supported by the president.

Answering an IZVESTIYA question about the explanation for such divergent viewpoints expressed within the space of only a few days, the president's press service answered that at the famous briefing Kostikov had been "spelling out the president's position at that moment."

It was suggested in the Defense and Foreign Ministries that when he mentioned six or seven months Kostikov had in mind the fact that it could take that long for talks to be held with NATO on clarifying and amplifying the program's provisions. At the Foreign Ministry it is not ruled out that this work could take even longer. The "Partnership for Peace" program is seen in Moscow as a framework document to which substance must be added. As for Russia's joining the program, this question has been decided, as President Yeltsin has repeatedly stated.

Karasin on DPRK Nuclear Policy; Arms Sales to PRC

LD0504164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia believes that North Korea should honor all its commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, said the Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department, Grigoriy Karasin, at Tuesday's briefing in Moscow.

According to him, Moscow welcomes the statement by the chairman of the U.N. Security Council, which urges Pyongyang to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to conclude its inspections in North Korea in accordance with the agreement reached between them on February 15th.

"Russia views the statement, which was adopted by consensus, as a timely action reflecting the world community's concern about the situation connected with the North Korean nuclear problem. We hope that Pyongyang will pay due attention to the recommendations given in the statement," he said.

...AND DISMISSES THE ALLEGATIONS THAT LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF RUSSIAN TANKS WAS DELIVERED TO CHINA

As Karasin said, "the allegations that a large consignment of T-80 tanks was delivered to China from Russia are absolutely groundless."

According to the diplomat, "the development of military- technical ties between Russia and China is a normal component of their relationship." Such ties "are effectuated through state structures and under appropriate control."

"In the area of military equipment deliveries to China, Russia observes the generally-accepted principles of transparence, including the despatch of the necessary data to the U.N. Conventional Weapons Register," said the spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry.

UN Status Denied for Russians in Georgia, Tajikistan

PM0604090394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 6

[Report from roundup of news agency reports]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has rejected the Russian proposal to grant the status of UN forces to the Russian Army subunits deployed in Georgia and Tajikistan. Speaking in Moscow after talks with President Yeltsin, Butrus-Ghali said that the UN peacekeeping operations should be carried out by multinational forces under direct UN control.

Abkhaz Envoy Comments on 4 Apr Moscow Agreement

NC0504184594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1339 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 5 (SNARK)—The signing of the documents on Abkhazian conflict's settlement in Moscow on April 4 is a basis for further negotiations. Igor Akhba, Abkhazian plenipotentiary in Russia informed of it SNARK.

He said now it is necessary to determine the status of Abkhazia and restore intergovernmetal relations with Georgia.

Mr. Akhba reported that the sides approved the idea of Russian peaceful forces' entrance into the conflict's zone under the UN aegis.

Karasin on Russian Concept of Karabakh Settlement

LD0504152094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Reliable cease-fire and termination of combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh are absolute priorities of the Russian concept of Karabakh settlement, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today. Many problems caused by the armed confrontation will have no solution without these conditions, he added.

Bearing in mind some unclear mass media reports, Karasin specified the Russian concept of Karabakh settlement and said the second stage of the settlement shall include troops pullback from the territories occupied in combat operations, resumption of the functioning of communications and the return of refugee to places of their permanent residence.

Political negotiations on the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh will be expedient only at the third stage and under more favourable conditions, stressed Karasin. He said this idea is supported by all the conflicting sides, who "think that the Karabakh future status should be established on a compromise basis through negotiations".

Negotiations With Ukraine on Debt Repayment Viewed

LD0604091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Specialists of the Russian natural gas supplier Gasprom are cautiously optimistic about the forthcoming negotiations with Ukraine on April 11 and 12 on the repayment of Ukraine's debt for the delivery of Russian natural gas. Their caution is due to the slow fulfillment of the terms stated in the protocol Gasprom signed with its Ukrainian counterparts on March 10.

In March, the Ukrainian negotiators pledged to solve the main problems relating to the debt within one month. The Ukrgasprom representatives who visited Moscow in early April confirmed their determination to comply with the terms of the document signed in March.

Nonetheless, out of the promised amount of 100 million dollars, Ukraine has remitted to the Gasprom account 96.5 million dollars, and has not identified terms for the Russian participation in joint ownership of the underground storage facilities on Ukrainian territory. These include two underground reservoirs near the western border. Russia has already handed over to the Ukrainian colleagues a draft agreement between the two countries on this matter.

Since the debt owed to the Russian supplier by Ukrainian consumers has reached 1.5 trillion roubles and its is doubtful that they will be able to mobilize sufficient resources soon, Gasprom experts believe that the problems should better be resolved at the inter-state level.

Arrest of Soldier in Turkmenistan Could Violate Treaty

MK0604095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 5

[Mekhman Gafarly report under the "Turkmenistan" rubric: "Russian Border Guard Arrested on Charges of Misuse of Office"]

[Text] According to INTERFAX, last weekend the Turkmen law- enforcement agencies arrested Andrey Titov, commander of the 13th border post of the 3d border unit of the Russian Border Troops operations group in Turkmenia [Turkmenistan]. The Turkmen Military Prosecutor's Office has brought a criminal lawsuit against the officer under Article 240 of the Turkmen Criminal Code (misuse of office). The circumstances of the case are still uncertain, the sole report saying that the

officer's arrest was preceded by the suicide committed by Private Geldyyev, a Turkmen citizen, upon being exposed as a thief by fellow soldiers.

Andrey Titov is currently being held in an investigatory cell in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat]. The Russian side thinks the arrest and legal action against Titov by the Turkmen law-enforcement agencies to be unlawful and plans to insist that the criminal case and the defendant himself be turned over to it.

In accordance with the Russian-Turkmen treaty on the joint protection of Turkmenia's state border and also on the status of the Russian Federation border troop servicemen on the territory of the republic, all military crimes committed by Russian border guards fall under Russian jurisdiction and must be considered by Russian law-enforcement agencies.

It should be recalled that in 1993 the Turkmen authorities attempted to start legal proceedings against 15 Russian servicemen. The Russian side, however, managed to make sure that their cases were turned over to it to be tried in Russia.

Hardliners Call For Military Alliance With Serbs

AU0604112094 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 6 (AFP)—Four hardline deputies who recently visited the Serb enclave of Krajina, in Croatia, and Serbia called Wednesday [6 April] for a military alliance with the Serbs and said Moscow should set up a naval base off the Adriatic coast.

"We must recognise on a diplomatic level the republic of Serb Krajina and establish a military and political union with that state," said Deputy Speaker Vladimir Vengerovskiy, a member of the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party.

"Russia's traditional interests in the region lie with the Serbs and we must join them in a political and military union," Communist Deputy Vitaly Sevastionov told a news conference.

The call for a closer alliance with the Serbs came as Russian diplomats were attempting to broker a peace agreement between Croatian officials and Serbs in Krajina.

The delegation said that Serb leaders in Krajina and Belgrade were prepared to offer land on the Adriatic coast to Russia for a naval base and said that up to 200,000 Russians would be welcome to live there.

"They could be refugees from ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union or military leaders who lost their posts because of the pull-outs", Sevastionov said.

The deputies said the Serb leaders would make an official proposal on establishing a naval base in the near future.

They also said that the State Duma would discuss in the near future lifting UN sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, stating that the measure amounted to the "genocide of the Serbian people" in the Balkans.

The news conference was held hours before a rival parliamentary delegation led by reformist Deputy Viktor Sheinis was to meet journalists to discuss its separate visit to the former Yugoslavia.

Reformists Urge Lifting Sanctions on Former Yugoslavia

AU0604135894 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 6 (AFP)—The reformist Yabloko faction of the Russian parliament supports gradually lifting UN sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, a senior member of the bloc said Wednesday at a news conference.

Deputy Viktor Sheinis, who returned from a visit to the former Yugoslavia, said his faction considered UN sanctions as "unfair and one-sided".

"The Serbs are not the only side responsible for the tragic situation in the former Yugoslavia," Sheinis said, adding that sanctions on imports of energy and raw materials should be the first to be lifted.

Sheinis however stressed that "it was in Russia's strategic and national interests to avoid transforming the Yugoslav crisis into a pretext for a break in relations between Russia and the West."

He said that any decision concerning lifting sanctions should be taken in conjunction with the United Nations Security Council.

Sheinis was joined on his visit to the former Yugoslavia by reformist deputy Mark Feygin, a member of Russia's Choice, who said that his faction had yet to decide on the issue of lifting sanctions.

Earlier, four hardline deputies denounced UN sanctions as "genocide of the Serbian people" in the Balkans and said in a separate news conference that they would vote in favor of lifting the sanctions during an upcoming debate at the State Duma (lower house of parliament).

The hardliners who recently visited the Serb enclave of Krajina, in Croatia, and Serbia called for a military alliance with the Serbs and said Moscow should set up a naval base off the Adriatic coast.

"We must recognise on a diplomatic level the republic of Serb Krajina and establish a military and political union with that state," said Deputy Speaker Vladimir Vengerovskiy, a member of the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party.

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The deputies said the Serb leaders would make an official proposal on establishing a naval base in the near future.

Zhirinovskiy Warns Finland on Baltics

LD0604105994

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 6 April carries a report by correspondent Svetlana Pankratova on a Russian-Finnish seminar on Russia joining the Council of Europe. The seminar was held in Helsinki and attended by members of parliament from both countries.

Pankratova reports that Oleg Lukin, head of the international affairs committee of the Russian parliament, said the meeting in Helsinki "would accelerate the resolution of the issue of Russia joining the Council of Europe." Finnish members of parliament would also like Russia to join the Council, for otherwise the process of European integration would not be complete.

Pankratova says that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, LDPR, took part in the seminar, but refused to meet journalists at a general meeting and preferred to convene his own news conference in a Helsinki hotel.

Pankratova continues: "At his news conference, Vladimir Volfovich lectured the Finns on how they should conduct their affairs with Russia. Do not touch the Baltic states, for they are a part of Russia, warned Zhirinovskiy. Otherwise you will have a third world war. The LDPR leader thinks that this third world war is already being waged in Tajikistan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. It is obvious that the LDPR leader's extremist utterances not only do not facilitate any further strengthening of trust between Russia and Finland, but on the contrary, do much to devalue the results of the constructive dialogue which took place between members of parliament from both countries."

Pankratova continues: "The report that following the news conference, the LDPR leader visited one of Helsinki's best known fleshpots, not among the best, either—the erotic night-club King-Sex Cockatoo—had a truly shocking effect on the Finnish public."

Talks With Estonia Focus on Troop Withdrawal Schedule

LD0504145294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The deadlines and schedule for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia are in the focus of the regular 18th round of Russo-Estonian talks, which today began at a Foreign Ministry rest-house in Chkalovskaya, near Moscow, ITAR- TASS was told by a counsellor of the Estonian Embassy here. The talks will last two days.

In expert opinion, this regular round of talks will not be easy, because the sides have still not ironed out their differences on the problem of social guarantees to military pensioners (about 11,000), now residing in Estonia, and to members of their families. This problem has always been a stumbling block in Russo-Estonian negotiations.

The previous round of talks, which ended in Tallinn on March 2, has not yielded any positive results. The agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops remained unsigned. The sides expressed dissatisfaction with the progress of negotiations. According to Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin, leader of the Russian delegation, the Estonian side is ready to approve the draft agreement on the complete withdrawal of troops, but would do it only after it gets an exact schedule of the pullout. "The Russian side has such a document," Svirin said, "but it will be handed over to the Estonian side only after it promises to grant all the needed social guarantees to the military pensioners and members of their families, now residing in Estonia." However, the Estonian delegation still objects against the linking of the pullout problem with the question of military pensioners. It moved to discuss the letter separately, but also on condition that it should first get the pullout schedule.

It is common knowledge that Russia, without any agreement or schedule, has already withdrawn from Estonia 90 per cent of all its troops and now pledges to repatriate 2,500 remaining officers and men by August 31, 1994.

Commenting on the results of the 17th round of talks, Svirin said that the Russian delegation was disturbed by Estonia's deviation from the earlier achieved agreements to renounce mutual claims: Russia is to turn over to Estonia 4,900 military establishments on the territory of the republic, while the latter is not claim any compensation for the caused ecological damage. Moreover, in accordance with an earlier reached agreement, Estonia was to allocate 23 million U.S. dollars for building housing facilities for the Russian troops withdrawn from the republic. The ambassador said that if Estonia backpedaled on these agreements, Russia would be compelled to withdraw the remaining troops according to its own, unilaterally fixed schedule.

Speaking on the local television a short while ago, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said that "Estonia does not want to make any compromises on social guarantees to Russian military pensioners now living in the republic". However, he stressed that he hoped the agreement on the withdrawal of troops, which Estonia was ready to accept a month ago, would be finally initialled.

Ministry Objects to Nuclear Waste From Hungary

MK0604072094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Against Hungarian Waste"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources categorically objects against burying glass-enclosed radioactive waste from Hungary on the territory of Russia. The opinion of the ministry as well as the stance of the Russian Federal Committee for Oversight of Nuclear and Radiation Safety and the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry had not been taken into account, despite official reports, at the time a draft protocol on this matter was agreed.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources will be insisting on an immediate correction of the document because the protocol directly violates the law "On the Protection of the Natural Environment."

Swedish Foreign Minister Ugglas Begins Visit

LD0504095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Kondaratenko, Natalya Cherepanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 5 TASS—Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas arrived in St. Petersburg on Tuesday. Ugglas, who arrived in Russia on a working visist, will make a trip to the city of Pskov where she will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Margaretha Af Ugglas is a deputy of the Swedish parliament from a moderate coalition party. Earlier, Ugglas was a deputy of the European Council. She has a degree of an economist, but for some time worked as a journalist. Presumably, the schedule of her two- day visit to St. Petersburg was arranged taking into account her professional interests. Ugglas will meet city leaders to discuss problems of regional cooperation, including projects financed by Swéden, and take part in a bank seminar, seminars on export technique and a seminar entitled "Journalism and Democracy."

The foreign minister will visit one of St. Petersburg enterprises, visit the St. Petersburg State University and meet representatives of the press.

Meets With Sobchak

LD0504222794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1544 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Kondratenko and Natalya Cherepanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 5 Apr—St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak today received Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, who arrived in Russia today on a working visit.

In conversation, the sides touched upon questions of strengthening regional economic ties, the implementation of joint programmes to be financed by the Swedish side, and also illegal immigration and cooperation between law-enforcement bodies. In Margaretha af Ugglas' opinion, the setting up of a House of Sweden in the city on the Neva would contribute to the deepening of bilateral contacts, including cultural exchange.

At a meeting with Russian and foreign journalists she said that in Pskov she intended to discuss with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev the problem of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic republics. Sweden's position, Margaretha af Ugglas stressed, is that they should be withdrawn as soon as possible. Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent on Sweden's attitude to the "Partnership for Peace" program, she said that her country will be joining this program. And it would very much like Russia to join this process, too. "Sweden intends to build a new Europe together with Russia, and not against Russia. Russia needs to take reciprocal steps," the minister said.

Czech Prime Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD0504144694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus has ended his visit to Russia and flew home today.

During talks between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vaclav Klaus the documents signed were an agreement on encouraging and protecting mutual capital investments and a protocol on mutual supplies of goods in 1994. The two sides also agreed to work out a mechanism in the near future for clearing Russia's foreign debts.

Vaclav Klaus was received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He also held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Iraq Sanctions Could Be Lifted After 'Trial Period'

PM0504132194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Left Without Mustard Gas"]

[Text] R. Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council Special Commission for Disarmament, has confirmed that the bulk of Iraq's chemical weapons have now been destroyed and the requisite barriers erected to prevent Baghdad manufacturing these categories of arms.

In total 28,000 tonnes of chemical shells, warheads, and bombs and a sizable quantity of components for the production of mustard gas have been destroyed in Iraq under UN supervision.

By and large, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Department, believes that this can be seen as confirmation of Baghdad's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations. Such actions on Iraq's part should be encouraged, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations said in New York during the latest examination of the question of sanctions against Iraq.

Among the problems that the UN special commission still has to resolve, Grigoriy Karasin cited the task of preventing the restoration of Iraq's military potential in the future. To this end, diplomats in Moscow believe, a mechanism for long-term international supervision of disarmament must be launched as soon as possible and a new "trial period" begun.

If Baghdad passes the test, the sanctions may be lifted.

Yeltsin Envoy Views Israel Visit

LD0504162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1615 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv April 5 TASS—Israel acknowledges Russia's role as a super power on the international scene and in the Middle East with which our country is linked with considerable economic, political, spiritual and historical interests, Russian president's special envoy on Middle East settlement Viktor Posuvalyuk said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

Sharing his impressions of his recent meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Posuvalyuk noted that the Israeli leadership has made up its mind on positive interaction with Russia as a co-sponsor of the peace process in the region.

According to the special Russian presidential envoy, during his stay in Israel detailed consultations were held on a wide range of international problems, Russian-Israeli relations, and also on preparations for the forthcoming visit to Moscow by the head of the Isreali Government.

After completing his Middle East tour, during which he visited Syria, Jordan and Israel, Viktor Posuvalyuk flew home today.

Yeltsin Addresses Participants at Holocaust Symposium

LD0604101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0922 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin sent a message to the participants in the international symposium "The Lessons of the Holocaust and Present-Day Russia." The text of the message, released by the Russian Federation president's press service, follows:

"To the participants in the international symposium: "The Lessons of the Holocaust and the Present-Day Russia"

"For the first time Russia is marking, together with all the civilized countries, the International Day of Commemoration of the Jews who fell victim to Nazism.

"At present, when political extremism is rearing its head with increasing brazenness all over the world, it is particularly important that we should remember the victims and not forget the guilty. We are bowing are heads before the tragedy of the people against which Fascism perpetrated one of the most hideous crimes.

"On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the great victory, we are paying tribute to the exploits of the liberating army that saved European Jews from total extermination.

"We are bowing low to thousands of our compatriots who were risking their own lives by sheltering Jews, their neighbors.

"I wish the participants in the congress success in their work."

Kurdish Leader Accuses Moscow of Terrorism

LD0504194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] During a press conference on Tuesday Director-General of the International Kurdish Cultural Center Tariel Broyev accused the Russian Government of "terrorism against the Kurdish people and of trying to mend the Russian economy at the Kurds' expense."

To quote Broyev, the Kurds of the Middle East and the CIS countries will go on a hunger strike to demand that Russia change its policy in relation to the Kurds.

Broyev told Interfax that his decision to end a 16-day hunger strike did not mean that he had given up his campaign. "The strike has been terminated at the request of political organizations of Kurdistan and the Middle East," he said.

On March 15, Broyev went on a hunger strike in protest at political and economic pressure put on the Kurdish center and on him personally by the Russian Government. Broyev demanded that Russia change its attitude to the Kurdish problem and help Kurdish refugees in the Middle East and the former Soviet republics.

Broyev also told Interfax that two attempts had been made on his life after he ended the strike. He laid the blame for his attempted assassination on the Russian special services. He also stated that he would seek political refuge for his family.

Soskovets Views Gas, Nuclear Cooperation With Turkey

LD0604113494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—"Russia is ready to take an active part in the reconstruction of iron and steel mills in Turkey," Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets said here today during a meeting with Turkish Minister for Construction and Settlements Onur Kumbaracibasi.

Soskovets regards the petroleum and gas industry as one of the most promising areas of Russo-Turkish cooperation. He moved to set up an international consortium for building a pipeline between Russia and Turkey with the participation of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Armenia. He said that Russia had efficient technologies for the production of pipes and could help train highly skilled specialists.

Taking into account Russia's rich experience in power engineering, Soskovets offered the Turkish side to build a new atomic power plant in Turkey. "Russian nuclear power plants have dependable safety systems," he said. "Moreover, they are much cheaper than the world prices".

Kumbaracibasi went on record for the construction of a new pipeline for transporting petroleum from the former USSR to Turkey. He said this would partially help solve the problem of the passage of tankers through the Bosphorus.

Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov, who took part in the talks, drew the Turkish delegation's attention to the "prospects of cooperation in marketing Russian special technologies". He said a 95 million U.S. dollars contract had already been concluded. "This will help Russia settle its debt to Turkey in the Paris Club within three years," he stressed.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Sends Message on Civic Accord Agreement

LD0504182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS— "I am convinced that the agreement on civic accord In Russia is possible and necessary for all of us, both politicians and Russian citizens," says a message of Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent today to the parliament speakers, possible signatories to the agreement and mass media bodies.

"The agreement shows that our new political system is consolidating, we are turning more powerful and sincere and political ambitions and interests have less power on us.

"However, the improvement, adoption and implementation of the agreement can be hampered: Mutual mistrust and striving for victories at the expense of the opponent are still great. This cannot be forgotten, if we really want to achieve accord and civic peace in Russia," stressed the message.

Yeltsin on Agreement

LD0504194694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1804 GMT 5 Apr 94

["Boris Yeltsin: Toward Concluding Agreement on Achieving Civic Accord in Russia"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The first stage of work on the text of an agreement on achieving civic accord in Russia has been concluded. While preparing it, the possibility of joint constructive (?work between) various branches of power, parties and trade unions has become apparent. The text prepared by the working group is being distributed for publication and general discussion. But no less complex and important stages lie ahead. In this connection I want to share my thoughts about the idea of civic peace and accord and further possible measures.

Need for Agreement

The Agreement on achieving civic accord in Russia arises from what has happened in the political life of the country—no matter how contradictory it may seem—and from the need to ensure political stability in society and to encourage the shoots of civic peace. Not a single serious problem of economic and social change can be solved without this.

The agreement would help to protect the emerging Russian democracy against political extremism. So far we, in fact, have only one democratic instrument to protect society and the state—the new Constitution. This is not enough. Besides the Main Law, democratic traditions and a culture of dialogue, compromise and partnership are needed.

The recent elections in March showed how justified is the concern expressed in the address of the Russian president regarding the alienation of society from power and the population from politics. Only by proving to people that politicians, parties and state institutes can come to an agreement, find common positions and effectively solve important public tasks can one hope to overcome this alienation.

The Possibility of an Agreement

Skeptical voices are heard saying that in the present condition of society an agreement is impossible. This point of view leads down a blind alley. I consider that the adoption and implementation of an agreement are realistic. Society is tired of confrontation, it is demanding civic peace, consensus, stability (not, however, the stability of immobility, but the stability of movement, economic and political reformation).

The people's need is sensed by the politicians, and this is clearly heard in the individual statements and declarations of the most varied political forces.

An agreement is furthermore possible because it reflects and consolidates mechanisms of consensus that have already started to operate, which is attested by the examples of joint work by the representatives of different branches of power on specific problems.

The whole population, the majority of political parties and a considerable proportion of the corps of deputies have an interest in consensus and political stability. With what political explosions are fraught is clear to all. At the same time—and this is fully justified—many are counting on legal mechanisms of obtaining power, which work only amid political stability.

Main Tasks of Agreement

The tasks of the agreement on achieving civic accord in Russia arise from the interests of the overwhelming proportion of the population. I would formulate them briefly as follows:

1. To ensure political stability by bringing into play the mechanisms of accord to be used permanently, in order to help resolve contradictions at early stages without them resulting in a confrontation, and in order to create in society and among the political elite an atmosphere of rejecting and denouncing extremism;
2. to form new political traditions and a new political culture;
3. to overcome the alienation of society from power by demonstrating real accord and the effectiveness and openness of politics;
4. to make the structures of civic society more active by involving them in discussing and tackling important problems;

5. to stimulate and speed up the adoption of laws necessary for extricating Russia from the economic crisis;

6. to create a favorable social atmosphere: A feeling of stability, confidence in power and an understanding of it.

What is Most Important in the Agreement

The most important thing is that the agreement on achieving civic accord in Russia should set in motion a permanent mechanism of accord and maintain it.

For this it is proposed (in accordance with the existing text) to set up a conciliation commission from representatives of the parties. Its main function is to create and maintain the work of permanent round tables for the main directions: Social and economic policy, security, culture, national problems and so forth.

These round tables will analyze the situation, single out important specific problems and set up temporary working groups from representatives of the interested parties to discuss them and to elaborate recommendations.

The strength of such groups lies in the fact that the recommendations drawn up by them will emphasize key contradictions at an early stage and will find agreed ways of solving them precisely because it is easier to come to an agreement on specific issues.

I am sure that this agreement will be achieved if we can maintain such conciliatory procedures for specific problems and make use of their results.

Completing Work on the Text of the Agreement

To complete work on the text of the agreement it is proposed to set up a working group, which would include two representatives from the following parties: - the Russian president, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the Russian Government, the Public Chamber, religious organizations, trade unions, associations of entrepreneurs and industrialists, creative associations.

I should regard it as useful to adopt a procedure whereby each of the parties could veto the inclusion of any of the proposed candidates in the group. This would enable a composition to be achieved that could work smoothly and make decisions by consensus. In that case, the text of an agreement that had had the finishing touches applied to it by the group could be signed without any further discussion.

The text of the current draft agreement as published in the press should be discussed, and recommendations, proposals and amendments should be drawn up and then sent to the president's administration for forwarding to the working group that is now operating.

Then, one day in the second half of April, a further working conference can be convened, attended by representatives of the above-mentioned parties to the agreement and leaders of parliamentary groups in the State Duma. The purpose of such a conference is to endorse the composition of the group working on the text and (to endorse) the signing procedure.

After this meeting, the newly formed group will be given no more than seven days to complete its work on the text, so that the signing may take place on 28 April.

Signing of the Agreement

I imagine that the parties from the above-mentioned list must decide for themselves which of them will be delegated for the ceremonial signing of the text of the agreement. I daresay there may be proposals to broaden the group of signatories by means of regional or wider political representation (this may be a topic for discussion at the next conference).

The delegations of the parties sign the text of the agreement. It is then published with an appeal by the parties to accede to the agreement. Following publication of the text, the body set up in accordance with the adopted agreement (in the current text, that is the Conciliation Commission) is given the powers to organize an open signing of the agreement. This may, for example, take the form of decisions to accede to the agreement adopted and sent in by various organizations. A list of such organizations may be published regularly in the newspapers by the Conciliation Commission.

I am sincerely confident that the agreement on achieving civic accord in Russia is both possible and necessary today for all of us—the politicians and citizens of Russia. The agreement will demonstrate that our new political system is strengthening and maturing, that we are becoming stronger and more responsible and that political ambitions and speculative interests are taking hold of us less frequently.

But the process of completing, adopting and implementing the agreement can easily be wrecked; mutual mistrust and the tendency to achieve victories at the expense of one's opponent and not together with him is still great. We must never forget this if we sincerely believe in our desire for accord and civic peace in Russia.

Civic Accord 'Draft'

LD0504210294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1824 GMT 5 Apr 94

["Agreements on Reaching Civic Accord in Russia /8 Blocks-Pages/ Draft/ Version 1/ 27.03.94"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Russia now needs civic accord as never before. The tasks ahead are too complicated and difficult to squander the strength of society in political confrontation. There will be no victors in an irreconcilable

struggle. There can only be one result of such struggle—the destruction of Russia and suffering of millions of Russian people.

There are no such problems in Russia which cannot be resolved without intensifying tension in society or resorting to violence or riding rough shod over the laws and common sense. Dialogue, consultations and negotiations, the search for meeting points and common positions and sensible compromises should become the fundamental norm of public and political life.

Civic accord should be reached on the basis of respect for various world views, political convictions, national and cultural traditions, and the dignity of the individual.

In order to reach civic accord the president of the Russian Federation, the Federal Assembly, the government, the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, political parties, trade unions and other public organizations conclude this agreement.

I. Political Life in Society

1. In their activities the sides pledge to adhere strictly to the principles of democracy, civic society, federalism, law-governed state, the separation of powers and the priority of human rights and liberties.

The sides view the Russian Federation Constitution in force as the foundation of Russia's legal system and statehood. Emphasizing the necessity to observe the constitution, the sides will make use of the multilateral conciliation procedures to study and disseminate the experience of its application and to coordinate the elaboration of constitutional amendments.

In order to ensure civic accord the sides pledge to refrain from introducing into the Constitution such amendments as would destabilize the situation in society.

2. The sides regard as the foremost task a joint elaboration of electoral laws, the law on parties and the law on referendum. The sides take upon themselves the obligation not to initiate political campaigns in order to carry out early elections of federal bodies of power not provided for in the Constitution currently in force.

3. In all their activities, including political activities, the sides pledge to renounce violence in all its forms as a means of resolving problems that emerge in society. The sides pledge not to appeal for violence, nor to kindle social, national or religious strife, nor to suppress or oppress those of dissenting views nor to incite citizens to it. Those who organize rallies, demonstrations or strikes assume responsibility for a peaceful nature of these events and for staging them in strict compliance with the laws.

The sides regard it as their duty to prompt all forces in society to get involved in the process of ensuring there is calm in the country and that a spirit of cooperation is created.

4. The sides pledge to refuse to use the mass media in an uncivilised or an incorrect manner in order to further their political interests.

5. With due consideration for the grandeur of Russian history, its heroic and tragic pages, the contribution of the generations of our citizens who gave their strengths to serving the Fatherland, the sides will avoid offensive assessments of the past and mud slinging. The sides appeal not to use assessments of the events in August 1991 and in September and October 1993 as reasons to deepen confrontation and opposition.

II. Regional policy

1. The sides regard it as necessary immediately to take measures to:

- Strengthen the unity of Russia's economic, political and legal space;
- coordinate the activities of regional authorities in the solution of tasks which go beyond the remit of individual regions;
- establish a single labor market on the basis of an unswerving observance of the code of labor laws, conventions and recommendations of the International Labor Organization throughout the country;
- to compensate the regions from the budget for the consequences of the decisions by the federal state bodies in such cases when regional interests have been made to suffer in the process of pursuing statewide interests.

2. the sides agree that it is necessary to adopt the following federal laws:

- On the general principles of organizing representative and executive power in the components of the federation;
- on the principles of the demarcation of powers and areas of authority between the federal level and the components of the federation;
- on the principles of local self-government.

3. The parties recognize the need to widen the economic independence of the components of the federation by means of strengthening the taxation base of their budgets and federal guarantees of the per-capita minimum of the region's budget through the federal subsidy fund. At the same time the responsibility of the power bodies of the components of the federation for collecting federal taxes on their territories is being enhanced.

4. The parties emphasize that implementation of the rights of the components of the federation is possible only if the country's state integrity and its political, economic and legal unity are guaranteed. To this end the components of the federation agree to refrain from altering their constitutional status in the course of two years.

The constitutions, charters and other legislative acts of the subjects of the federation will be drawn up in

accordance with—and elaborated anew in strict accordance with—the federal Constitution.

The federal and regional power bodies declare a moratorium on the signing of bilateral treaties between them on the demarcation of areas of authority and powers until the adoption of a federal law on the principles of the demarcation of powers and areas of authority between the federal and regional bodies of state power.

5. The parties emphasize that, with the objective of strengthening local self-government, a package of federal laws should be elaborated and adopted in the first half-year, envisaging as follows:

- The general principles of the organization and functioning of bodies of local self-government;
- the guarantees of the independence of local self-government bodies in solving local issues;
- the provision by local self-government of an independent taxation base and the right to establish the normatives of payments into their own budget, with guarantees of a budget minimum on the part of the state;
- the rights of local self-government bodies to participate in solving problems common to the regions and to Russia as a whole.

III. Ethnic Policy

1. The sides pledge that they will abide strictly by the principle whereby the source of power in component parts of the federation is their multi-ethnic population; representatives of no ethnic community have the exclusive right to assume control over the territory, institutes of power or resources.

2. The sides will support various specific forms of self-organization in the ethnic communities, excluding those which are destructive to state unity and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. The sides think that national associations [natsionalnyye assotsiatsii], unions [ob'yedineniya], fellowships [zemlyachestva] and other types of national-cultural unions are in need of a special state support scheme.

3. The sides stress that the carrying out of social and economic changes in the areas inhibited by small peoples and ethnic groups should be accompanied by a complex of measures aimed at retaining their traditional lifestyle.

4. The sides think that it is necessary to reinforce state and public supervision of the observance of human rights as far as nationalities' matters are concerned, not to allow and to avert any manifestations of ethnic, racial or religious discrimination.

5. The sides call upon national movements and parties to declare a moratorium on demanding border changes and the established administrative and territorial division.

6. The sides acknowledge their obligation to protect actively the rights and interests of Russians living in other states, and to receive and make provision for compatriots resettling in Russia, providing them with all-round support.

IV. Socioeconomic Policy

The sides agree that their joint efforts should be directed toward overcoming the socioeconomic crisis and continuation of the economic reform in the interests of Russia's population. In order to stabilize the socioeconomic situation in 1994 the following urgent problems must be solved:

- Achieving a steady, predictable and controllable level of inflation;
- overcoming the nonpayments crisis;
- ensuring the necessary level of social protection, the efficiency and precise targeting of social aid;
- stopping the general decline of production levels before the year ends;
- starting the positive structural transformations and increasing investment activity;
- strengthening economic cooperation within the CIS framework;
- strengthening the country's position in the world market.

The sides believe that a standing economic conference should be set up in order to elaborate the agreed proposals in the sphere of economic policy for the period this agreement remains in force. Those attending it should be representatives of the president, the government, the Central Bank of Russia, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the main professional associations of the working people and the associations of manufacturers and entrepreneurs.

Over the next two months the economic conference is to prepare specific proposals on current problems in economic policy, which will be submitted to the president and the Federation Council.

For the duration of the economic stabilization measures:

1. The trade unions, their associations and organizations of their members undertake not to carry out and not to take part in organizing strikes for the purpose of redistributing budget finances or allocating subsidies or benefits from state credits or taxation to individual industries or territories, or for other purposes having nothing directly to do with wages, working conditions or saving jobs.

2. Associations of manufacturers and entrepreneurs and their members undertake to refrain from unjustified stoppages of activities and production, the breaking of commitments to suppliers and customers, to the budget and banks, and the misuse of state investment resources.

3. Organs of state power, associations of manufacturers and entrepreneurs and their members undertake to attend conciliation procedures for the settlement of labor disputes, to provide the trade unions with sufficient

information about the state of the relevant budgets and the position of enterprises, and to ensure that the trade unions have the organizational back-up for their statutory activities.

V. The Security of Citizens and the State

1. The parties consider the guarantee of the individual security of the citizens and the fight against organized crime and corruption to be the most important task. The parties pledge to provide the necessary legal base to solve the problem of crime and to carry out the reform of the law-enforcement bodies.

2. The parties pledge to prevent:

- The irreversible technological lagging behind and isolation of the country's economy from the world economy;
- the social regression and disintegration of society and the destruction of the environment;
- the reduction in defense capability and the weakening of the social protection of military servicemen, persons discharged to the reserve and members of their families.

3. The parties oppose the creation of any kind of armed and militarized formations by political parties and movements and public and commercial organizations, and should they be so created to call for their immediate disbandment.

4. The sides consider attempts to draw the state's military structures into supporting political programs and demands to be illegal and immoral.

5. The sides consider the reform of the army and navy an urgent task facing the state and society. The sides undertake to ensure the elaboration of the concept for the armed forces' move to a professionally based service.

6. The sides support the participation of political parties, movements and public organizations in the elaboration of the concept of national security during the transition period.

7. The sides undertake to help achieve the cessation of armed conflicts and support stability in the states bordering Russia.

VI. Spiritual, Moral, Ethical and Cultural Values

The sides emphasise that the love for the Fatherland, freedom and the moral duty to the country and society, religious and humanistic values and creative work should become the basis for the resurrection of Russia. To reassert these values tirelessly is a matter not just for every member of society, but for the state. The sides pledge:

1. To restore and propagate Russia's ancient spiritual and moral traditions, to assert by words and deeds the norms of moral conduct in politics, the economy and social life. The mass media and educational, scientific and cultural establishments and religious organizations, the efforts of which should meet with state and public support, have a special role to play in this process.

2. To pursue agreed policies in the area of the moral, spiritual, cultural, patriotic and aesthetic upbringing of children and young people. To identify potential to stimulate children's and young people's creativity, physical education and sport, to organize leisure time for children and adolescents, for which purpose the relevant activities by public, religious and other organizations should be encouraged.

3. To facilitate the preservation of the system of free basic, specialized secondary and vocational technical education and also to prevent a decline in the existing level of financing of higher education. To encourage the establishment of non-state establishments affording general access to higher education to prepare specialists for vitally important areas of the economy, public life, science, culture and education.

4. To identify resources to finance cultural and scientific establishments at a level commensurate with developed countries. In subsidizing these establishments, preference is to be given to structures which implement priority state programs and which do not have alternative sources of financing that would ensure the survival of these structures.

5. To provide a taxation policy on favorable terms with regard to scientific, cultural, educational and health establishments. With the help of corresponding taxation benefits to encourage the provision of charitable assistance to educational, scientific and cultural establishments and religious organizations.

6. To assist the creation of a common national fund for supporting Russian talent, this work to be financed by the state and public, economic, commercial and other structures.

The Conditions and Mechanisms for Implementing this Agreement

The parties are united in that reaching civic accord in Russia should be taken as a process in which all the forces of society adhering to the principles of the present agreement are invited to take an active part.

To elaborate a mechanism for implementing the provisions of the present agreement a conciliation commission is being formed from the plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian Federation president, the government, the chambers of the Federal Assembly, factions of the State Duma and also a number of prominent public and cultural figures.

In order for the conciliation commission to work through specific issues, conferences, round tables and temporary working groups are being organized.

The parties stress that the implementation of the present agreement should be carried out in strict compliance with the Constitution currently in force and the laws of the Russian Federation.

The Responsibility of the Parties to the Agreement

The parties who have signed this agreement are aware of their responsibility toward society and history for their failure to fulfil the obligations which they have undertaken.

The conciliation commission monitors the compliance with the provisions enshrined in the agreement and establishes facts of violation of the provisions of the agreement by one or several parties.

If facts of violation of the agreement are established, the conciliation commission:

- makes a relevant statement in the media;
- raises the issue of expelling the corresponding member from the number of signatories to the agreement;
- presents a proposal on measures of political accountability of the persons guilty of violating the provisions of the agreement, up to relieving them of their high official posts or revoking their powers as deputies.

The media are to ensure the possibility of open public control over compliance with the agreement.

Duration of the Agreement and Conditions for Accepting New Parties

The agreement is concluded for two years and can be extended provided there is consent of the parties who have signed it.
The agreement is open for signing by new parties while it remains in force.
The parties address Russia's constructive forces with a proposal to sign the agreement.

Yeltsin To Meet Shumeyko, Rybkin

LD0504155894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] On Wednesday morning President Boris Yeltsin might have a meeting with the chairmen of the two chambers of the Russian Federal Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin. The draft agreement on civic accord is expected to be the main item of discussion.

On Monday evening the document was reportedly sent by the president to the State Duma. The draft has been circulated among parliamentary groups for discussion.

The text submitted to the State Duma does not in fact differ from the version Yeltsin [submitted] to the speakers of the houses last Thursday. The only amendment made by Yeltsin was the exclusion from the section on the social and economic policies of the recognition of the need to raise salaries and wages with due account to inflation, to guarantee their timely payment, to hold back the prices of key food stuffs, to take steps to guarantee employment and to help territories where the threat of unemployment is the greatest.

Interfax has been informed of Rybkin writing a letter to the president requesting to replace the section on the security of individuals and the state by a more detailed version approved in advance by the working group that drafted the document.

Yeltsin Aide 'Upbeat'

PM0504155794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Yuriy Kononenko article incorporating interview with presidential aide G. Satarov; place and date not given: "Kremlin Hopes for Success of Peace Agreement. Immoderate Opposition Continues To Gamble on Confrontation"]

[Text] The Agreement on Civil Peace in Russia is expected to be signed on 28 April. By then, in addition to "Russia's Choice" representatives, all leaders of State Duma factions will have been to the Kremlin. The president's next consultation will be with representatives of parties of a centrist persuasion. B. Yeltsin will then hold a second meeting of the working group, which will determine the procedure for signing this document and the mechanism for implementing it. In addition, he is also expected to meet with heads of administration and the leaders of the Russian republics, who will evidently also participate in signing the agreement at the second stage (it is envisaged that at the first stage the document will be signed by the approximately 25 main political forces in Russia).

Since the text of the document is still being kept secret, numerous questions arise. Including: Can it be acceptable to political forces with diametrically opposed ideologies? And the recent report, citing I. Rybkin, that the State Duma will not examine the proposed version of the agreement pending the preparation of a new one has caused confusion and a wave of speculation. It was immediately interpreted as a rejection by the State Duma of the ideas and provisions embedded in the document. This report drove presidential aide G. Satarov to telephone I. Rybkin. His answer was unexpected: "It's a fake. I said nothing of the kind," I. Rybkin stated.

I assumed that I would hear from G. Satarov about clashes in the course of the work on the document, but the president's aide was upbeat. He has already consulted with many factions in parliament—both those of a democratic persuasion and those on the opposite flank. As yet he has not had occasion to hear any terms or ultimatums expressed.

Such a constructive approach by parliamentarians, including from the opposition camp, who only recently were stirring up society with their decision to amnesty the participants in the October putsch, puts you on your

guard. But the explanation for this phenomenon in the presidential entourage is as follows: The opposition sees the agreement as a guarantee of the stability which it needs to implement its long-term plans—to attempt to come to power in the 1996 elections in a calm atmosphere by constitutional means.

But it is obvious that the immoderate opposition is continuing to gamble on confrontation. This is confirmed by A. Rutskoy's PRAVDA interview. "What accord? And with whom.... These games involving consensuses and agreements must be stopped...."

"What is the current state of readiness of the Agreement on Civil Peace?" I asked G. Satarov.

[Satarov] I sent the latest version to the State Duma 4 April. It has already been distributed to committees for study and further work. It has proved possible to work out a scheme which promises to make the document viable. I am talking about a permanently operating mechanism for building accord. Such accord is only possible when specific problems in public life are singled out. In this connection the document provides for the creation of a conciliation commission, which is called upon to keep the situation in the country under review. If conflicts emerge "roundtables" will be held to conduct a collective analysis, and ways to solve the problems which arise will be sought by a working group involving all interested parties.

Disputes and conflicts on the path toward seeking accord could arise if someone attempts to "reconcile" various ideologies in this document or to incorporate elements of party programs in it.

To date not one of the parties represented in parliament has opposed the inclusion of measures of prohibition in the agreement. And they are indeed present; in particular, there is a provision for prohibiting political parties, movements, and commercial structures from creating any kind of armed formations and for the renunciation of illegal attempts to involve the power structures in supporting political objectives.

Agreement Submitted to Parties

LD0504192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] On the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin the official text of the draft agreement on civic peace in Russia he signed was sent to the media on Tuesday evening.

According to a well-informed source in the presidential administration, the document was simultaneously submitted to 25 potential sides to the agreement—political parties and public movements. The same source said a working group which drafted the agreement is expected to hold a session on April 18-20 chaired by Yeltsin. It will discuss proposals and amendments suggested by political groups and individuals to work out the final version. Earlier the president named April 28 as the possible date for signing the agreement. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Discusses Future Candidacy, Priority Tasks

LD0604092294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin said it was premature to raise the question of whether he intends to be a candidate in the next presidential elections. In an interview for an INTERFAX correspondent, the president said that in the course of the two remaining years before the elections, he saw his main task as being the establishment of stable mutual relations between the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities.

He said that new relations were already beginnig to take shape with the Federation Council and the State Duma. The president said the second task was to strengthen Russia's unity. Acknowledging that the process of the establishment of federal relations was at times painful and tense, Boris Yeltsin replied that this process was, as a whole, under control.

The president regards the economy as the third priority area. He expressed the hope that in the coming two years, the numerous ills of our economy would start to vanish and that we would all feel better for that.

Comments on Lessons of October

LD0604093094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Every possible effort to prevent a tragedy like the October events in Moscow should for any politician of Russia be the paramount aim, the main requirement both of himself and of his comrades-in-arms. Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated this in an interview to the INTERFAX agency.

There should be only one road to achieving one's political aims—elections, the president noted. In his view, we are assimilating the lesson of the October tragedy, albeit with difficulty. Boris Yeltsin named as evidence of this the drafting of an agreement on civil peace. which an ever broader circle of parties and organizations are voicing the wish to join.

Yet another lesson of those dark days is the vital necessity for the strengthening of the state, the president declared. Nobody should be allowed to destroy state buildings, mount assaults upon television, and form armed detachments.

In the words of Boris Yeltsin, there is now the necessary minimum for strengthening the state. The Constitution has been adopted by the vote of all the people. The president noted that the new basic law had put an end to dual power and opened up a peaceful, civilized road to the resolution of contradictions.

Yeltsin Meets 'Russia's Choice' Faction

PM0604101594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sympathies With 'Russia's Choice'"]

[Text] There has been a meeting in the Kremlin between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the "Russia's Choice" faction. They discussed collaboration and cooperation between democratic organizations. The president noted that he is close to the political views of the "Russia's Choice" bloc and that he would work in close contact with it. At the same time, Boris Yeltsin stressed that he will be seeking points of contact with other Russian political forces, since he is the president of all Russians, and will be meeting with representatives of other parties and blocs.

Regarding the situation in the State Duma, Boris Yeltsin noted that, despite the broad range of political views in the Russian parliament, he is confident that he will be able as president to cooperate and reach common ground with the people's representatives. He noted with satisfaction that he has a good working relationship with State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

Yeltsin Asked To Clarify Stance

PM0604095094 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "President Begins Series of Meetings With Representatives of Parliamentary Factions"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting 4 April, at his initiative, with a delegation from the "Russia's Choice" parliamentary faction headed by Yegor Gaydar. The conversation touched on the consolidation of democratic forces, the threat of fascism, and the task of improving the legislative base for the continuation of reforms. The writer Alla Gerber, who took part in the meeting, shared her impressions of the exchange of opinions, in an interview with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent. She said that the Russian president gives the impression of being a perfectly healthy and calm person who responds sensitively to his interlocutor and knows how to listen and to hear.

"Boris Nikolayevich came out against the creation of any kind of presidential party," Alla Gerber stressed, "but promised to support the democrats and the party of which 'Russia's Choice' is the initiator...."

In the opinion of the writer and deputy, in the regions there is great interest in Gaydar's emerging party, but people have certain misgivings about victorious communists being in power. Developing the topic under discussion, the "Russia's Choice" representatives advised Boris Yeltsin to address the Russians more often, to participate in democratic actions more actively, and to define more clearly and precisely both his own positions and those of his entourage. "The unclear, unspecific nature of certain pronouncements and actions by the presidential team is confusing people's perception of Boris Yeltsin's intentions and his allies," Alla Gerber said.

The problem of legal backup for further Russian reforms was touched on. The cornerstone of this, in the general opinion, should be the urgent adoption of laws on joint-stock companies, securities, and stock exchanges. It goes without saying that the "Russia's Choice" delegation proposed tougher legal norms regarding the kindling of interethnic hostility and fascist propaganda. The delegation called on the president to take the threat of fascism in Russia seriously and to act openly and resolutely in this regard. Boris Yeltsin expressed approval for the "Russia's Choice" initiative on holding parliamentary hearings in the near future on the danger of fascism in Russia.

It was the mutual opinion that the discussion took place in a calm and constructive atmosphere and demonstrated yet again that one old friend is better than two new ones. The president promised the legislators that he would hold similar meetings with deputies from the other parliamentary factions in the State Duma.

Whether the meeting will be the starting gun for a new rallying of democrats, time will tell. But one thing is clear today: Rumors that Boris Yeltsin has lost the political initiative were patently exaggerated. And suggestions that he intends to run in the next presidential elections once again as leader of all democrats are apparently not without foundation.

Shakhray Submits 'Confederative Agreement'

PM0504140394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Search for Way to Rapprochement"; followed by text of Draft Confederative Agreement submitted by Sergey Shakhray, leader of Party of Russian Unity and Accord]

[Text] The proposals which Nursultan Nazarbayev advanced recently on a search for new forms of integration of independent states and on the creation of the Eurasian Union attracted the wide attention of various political forces and elicited ambivalent comments.

Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRUA] and Russian Federation minister of nationalities affairs and regional policy, in turn issued a statement in support of the idea of a confederative union of Eurasian states and passed to the editorial office the **draft Confederative Agreement** which he advanced in 1992, which was announced in the PRUA election platform, and which is published below. The party's statement says, in particular, that "not only the peoples but also many political forces in the CIS countries are already prepared not just to discuss the idea of creating such a union but also to work out specific questions of its activity."

We advance, the PRUA declares, the idea of forming an International Working Group comprising representatives of countries which wish to conclude the Confederative Agreement or of political and public organizations which share this desire. We are also prepared to take on the resolution of organizational-technical and financial questions relating to ensuring this group's activity.

The draft Confederative Agreement, the statement reads, should be regarded as a conceptual base for a future interstate treaty. The simultaneous elaboration of a package of necessary treaties and agreements directly associated with the idea of a Eurasian confederation is proposed.

(Draft) Confederative Agreement

The Russian Federation,

acknowledging the historical significance and effectiveness of the interstate relations achieved within the framework of the CIS,

striving, in the name of the interests of the peoples of the High Contracting Parties, for further integration and effective cooperation on economic, sociocultural, and defense questions,

confirming that none of the provisions of this agreement is directed or can be interpreted to the detriment of the CIS or of the treaty relations and other relations of each of the contracting parties among themselves or with other states, and preserving the independence and the inviolable sovereign rights of the states that are party to the agreement, have [as published] agreed on the following.

I: The High Contracting Parties conclude the Confederative Agreement, whose contents and the ways to implement which are defined by this document and by treaties signed on its basis.

II: The High Contracting Parties have agreed to the creation of the **Confederative Economic Community (CEC)** as the basis of the Confederative Agreement.

The CEC ensures:

the revival and development of a common market of the Confederative Agreement member countries as a single economic area without customs borders and not hindering free cooperation among business subjects or the circulation of commodities, services, and capital within the Community,

the creation of a common currency system and banking system based on the preservation of the national currencies of these states and on agreed principles of credit and monetary regulation,

the implementation of a concerted customs and export-import policy in respect of states which are not parties to the Confederative Agreement,

the creation of the **Eurasian Investment Bank** to fund programs and projects aimed at the economic development of the countries that are party to the Confederative Agreement,

the phased standardization of the civil-law and financial legislation of the states which have concluded the Confederative Agreement.

To carry out the tasks facing the CEC, the **CEC Governmental Committee** is formed and is empowered to adopt decisions on questions of the implementation of a common economic policy in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

The terms and procedure for the activity of the CEC and its organs are established by the **Economic Treaty** concluded on the basis of this agreement.

III: The High Contracting Parties have agreed to the creation of the **Defense Union**, which is based on the national armies of the states that are party to the agreement and on the **Joint Armed Forces and Joint Military Command** of the countries that have concluded the Confederative Agreement.

IV: The High Contracting Parties have agreed on unity of action on the main questions of social policy, education, science, health care, and culture.

The parties pledge to abide by common social insurance and pension provision regulations.

V: To resolve common questions of the countries that are party to the Confederative Agreement, the High Contracting Parties create on parity principles the **General Political Council** and also the **Security Council**, which operate in accordance with the principle of unanimity.

The structure, the operating procedure, and the budget of the organs are determined by the General Political Council in accordance with this agreement.

VI: The High Contracting Parties have agreed to create the **Court of the Confederative Union**. The court has in its jurisdiction all questions that arise in connection with the application of this agreement and the accords concluded on its basis.

The court is formed and resolves cases in accordance with the Statute on the Court adopted by the General Political Council and to be approved by the legislative organs of the countries that are party to the Confederative Agreement. The **Institute of Model Legislation** is formed under the Court of the Confederative Union.

The High Contracting Parties have agreed to establish unified principles of legal aid enshrined in a special agreement.

VII: Any CIS member state and other European and Asian states may apply to the General Political Council to be admitted as members of the Confederative Agreement which adopt a decision in accordance with the principle of unanimity after consultations with the CEC Governmental Committee.

Yeltsin Aide Promises End of Special Services Reform

MK0604074094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—Yuriy Baturin, the Russian president's national security aide, has announced that the Statute of the Federal Counterintelligence Service actually marks the end of a series of constant transformations of the special services. This structure, necessary for society and the state, Yu. Baturin pointed out, will be protected "from emotional, incompetent, and time-serving changes" so as to create corresponding conditions for normal work in the new situation. In this connection, the Russian president's aide dismissed attempts by certain foreign circles "to influence the leadership of Russia with the aim of radically reforming Russian special services."

Yeltsin Appoints Safonov CI Deputy Director

LD0504153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree appointing Colonel-General Anatoliy Yefimovich Safonov first deputy director of the Federal Service of Counterintelligence of the Russian Federation.

The same decree relieves Anatoliy Safonov from the post of the deputy director of the Federal Service of Counterintelligence. This was reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Commission Issues 'First Study' of Airbus Crash

LD0504153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1445 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—"According to the information we have from the flight recorder, it has been established that the son and the daughter of a member of the crew, who were flying as passengers, were on the flight deck. Contrary to the regulations, he had been demonstrating and explaining the principles of flying the aircraft". This sensational, and unfortunately, very sad, news about the reason why the airbus A-310 fell from the sky was confirmed in an exclusive interview for an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the public relations department of the Russian Ministry of Transport. These findings were based on a first study by members of the government commission on 4 April of the results of the decoding of parametric information registered by the on-board recorders.

The Moscow-Hong Kong flight SU-593 of the A-310 aircraft came to a tragic end on 22 March near Mezhdurechenck in Kemerovo Oblast. Seventy-five people died in the crash.

It has been established that the flight from Moscow to Novokuznetsk was going according to schedule. There were no indications of any malfunctions of the aircraft, its engines or systems.

Four minutes after passing Novokuznetsk, as a consequence of what happened on the flight deck, the airbus "banked to the right more than it should have done, causing it to descend steeply and to strike the ground."

A document presented to ITAR-TASS this evening points out that the actions of the crew and the disaster situation procedures are being investigated by highly qualified specialists.

The commission is continuing its work.

Zhirinovsky Aide Plays Down Departures From Party

LD0604111794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Yet another State Duma member announced on Wednesday he is quitting the faction of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Vladimir Novikov followed suit of Vladimir Borzyuk protesting against the "populist policy" of Zhirinovskiy. However, deputy chairman of the party Aleksandr Vengerovskiy played down the event saying there is nothing dramatic about it.

"There were a lot of fellow-travellers among LDPR members", he told TASS. "The LPDR was, is and will be the decisive political factor in Russia" in the coming two years and even longer, he added.

"Some party members used to scare us that a coup would take place at the LDPR congress and that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy would quit the party. But this did not happen", Vengerovskiy said adding that people are "free to unite in any groups".

Two More Deputies Leave

LD0604091494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Vladimir Borzyuk, who is head of the Orel organization of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], and Vladimir Novikov, chairman of the Udmurt regional organization, have today announced their departure from the Duma faction of the LDPR. This was reported by INTERFAX and ITAR-TASS agencies.

Vladimir Borzyk said his decision was made because he disagreed with the populist actions of LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who was inflicting damage not only on the party itself but also on the principles of morality and ethics common to all mankind. At the same time, Vladimir Borzyuk noted that he stll considered himself an adherent of the LDPR Charter, and in his future activity as a deputy outside the faction he would pursue the program with which the LDPR had gone to the elections on 12 December last year and from which, in his opinion, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had deviated.

Report on Zhirinovskiy's Past Use of Jewish Name

PM0504132394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "AP on LDPR Leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Family Tree"]

[Text] New York—Civil records attest that until he was 18 years old Vladimir Zhirinovskiy used the name Eydelshteyn, AP reports. The documents in question were discovered by a journalist cooperating with AP and CNN TV in four archives in Alma-Ata [Almaty], the city where the current LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] chairman was born.

The birth records register Zhirinovskiy under the surname Eydelshteyn. It transpires that his father was called Volf Isakovich Eydelshteyn. According to Zhirinovskiy, who is renowned for his anti-Semitism, neither he himself nor his father were Jews and his father's name was Volf Andreyevich Zhirinovskiy.

The Alma-Ata archives illustrate that no one with that name ever lived in Alma-Ata. AP says that the name of the LDPR leader's father is in actual fact a combination of the names of the first and second husbands of V. Zhirinovskiy's mother—Aleksandra Pavlovna. Her first husband—Andrey Vasilyevich Zhirinovskiy—died of tuberculosis in August 1944, 18 months before the future LDPR leader was born. Her second husband was Volf Isakovich Eydelshteyn, who married Aleksandr Pavlovna five months before Vladimir was born.

The documents found in the archives also attest that the 18-year old Zhirinovskiy asked the Alma-Ata City Executive Committee to change the name Eydelshteyn to his current name and received permission to do so in June 1964. He signed the application using his real name, Eydelshteyn.

LDPR Press Secretary Grigoriy Serebrennikov said in Moscow that these documents "are forgeries." When asked by AP journalists for a meeting with Zhirinovskiy himself, his press secretary demanded $5,000 for a half-hour conversation with the LDPR leader. The question of Zhirinovskiy's nationality, AP points out, is of political significance and casts doubt on the LDPR leader's sincerity owing to the latter's constant attacks on Jews.

Mafia 'Godfather' Killed in Moscow

LD0504185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Otari Kvantrishvili, 47-year-old Moscow businessman and supposedly a godfather of local mafia was killed today, a reliable source told ITAR-TASS. Kvantrishvili was shot at 20:30 today when he was leaving prestigious Krasnopresnenskiye baths and died while being transorted to hospital. The baths were reportedly included in a zone of his clan's control.

Police obtain no data on possible motives of the killing, neither investigators could identify the attacker so far. Kvantrishvili, formerly well-known Georgian athlete and coach, headed the charity Lev Yashin Foundation protecting interests of retired athletes. A year has not passed yet since his elder brother Amiran was shot dead at Moscow shootout between domestic and outside Chechen mafia clans.

Yeltsin Approves Parliament Development Body

LD0504180194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian president signed an instruction today aimed at improving the provision of information and experts' services for the Federal Assembly and facilitating interaction between the bodies of state power. The document approves the setting up of the foundation for development of parliamentarism in Russia. The government is instructed to register the foundation. It is recommended that the Moscow government should allocate 1,000 square meters for this foundation's offices.

Yeltsin Edict on Federal Law Publishing Procedures

LD0604110894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian president has issued an edict on the procedure for the publication and the coming into force of federal laws. According to the document, federal laws must be published in the newly launched INFORMATSIONNYY BYULLETEN-SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Information Bulletin-Code of Laws of the Russian Federation].

They are also to be published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and are to be forwarded to the Sistema Legal Information Scientific and Research Center's standard legal information database.

Their publication in the Russian Code of Laws and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is to be regarded as official publication. In accordance with the edict, federal laws can also be published in other publications and made public on radio and television.

Federal laws come into force on the entire territory of Russia at the same time, ten days following their official publication, if no other date for their coming into force has been specified in them.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin 'Document' on 'Economic Security'

MK0604113494 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Podzharskiy report: "Chernomyrdin Wants To Be Economically Secure. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Has Sparked a Witch-Hunt in Government"]

[Text] An extremely intriguing government document marked "Not for the Press" has found its way into the hands of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. The directive issued by Chernomyrdin as early as last March sets forth fairly ambiguous things that could not but elicit our curiosity.

What is hidden behind the trite words about "The Fundamentals of a Strategy To Ensure the Economic Security of the Russian Federation?" And why did Viktor Chernomyrdin task the Economy Ministry and the Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on Economic Security with drawing up within two weeks (!) the requisite organizational-methodological documents? As I understand it, the organizational-methodological documents are just as needed for drawing up a state's general strategy as an umbrella is for a fish. What is the meaning of a provision instructing the Finance Ministry to finance scientific developments? Scientific developments are one thing, money is quite another.

According to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS information, apart from this ambiguous paper Chernomyrdin has signed another two documents marked "Top Secret" and "Of Special Importance" that are written in much more specific language. Bearing in mind Mirzayanov's sad fate, we only know that they deal with the creation of an Economic Security Service at the Economy Ministry (that it will be part of the Economy Ministry is clear even from our paper, which obliges federal agencies to submit their proposals to it by 1 May). Do you see the difference—fundamentals there and a security service here?

Then everything comes into focus. Including provisions stipulating that a democratic order be maintained in any conditions (although this is at odds with the Constitution—a state order is to be chosen by the people, not by Mr. Chernomyrdin) and that the production capacities of the defense sector be preserved in those same any conditions. The Economic Security Service, carefully hidden behind a veil of secrecy for some time to come (otherwise why make its creation such a mystery?) will defend the interests of the government to the last man. A downright economic surveillance. And this despite the fact that we already have economic counterintelligence as part of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], although we have learned that the Chekists have also been directly been involved in the effort. But the security of the state is one thing, that of the government quite another. Down with conversion and democracy! Long live democracy under V.S. Chernomyrdin!

P.S. Valentin Sergeyev, chief of the government's press service, having failed to answer any of our questions, was completely bewildered and long tried to find out where MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS obtained the secret document. The next day he said that the staffer who had given us the directive (?!) was identified and would be severely reprimanded. There you are—the first case for the fledgling service.

Finance Official Makes Economic Forecast

LD0504150294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] By the end of the year, the rate of inflation in Russia is due to be seven to eight percent per month, while the budget deficit will be no more than 10 percent of gross domestic product. The dollar-ruble exchange rate is expected to reach 3,000 rubles to the dollar by the middle of the year and 4,000 to 4,500 rubles by the end of the year. This forecast was given by Vladimir Petrov, first deputy minister of finance, at today's hearings on the draft state budget at the State Duma. [passage omitted]

The government is proposing a tight financial policy. The main priority is to quickly suppress the inflationary process and to achieve financial stabilization. The principal methods are to cut state spending, to be strict about granting credit, and to extend the deadline for repayment of debts. In this context, the government intends to continue looking for investment resources, to increase centralized capital investment, and to attract resources accumulated in the private sector. There will also be tight monitoring of the effective, well-targeted use of state resources. It is expected that as long as an active policy of economic stabilization is implemented, the population's real monetary incomes will not fall by a significant amount.

The government and parliament are organizing working groups, which are planning to complete work on the budget by the end of May. In the same month, the parliament and government will begin working together on the 1995 budget. In other words, one may conclude that the conditions have been created for constructive cooperation between the two estates without conflict.

Economics Minister on Budget Estimates Problems

LD0504160694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Economics Ministry has two major limits in its work this year—and the 8 to 10 percent level of monthly inflation by the end of the year, and the 80 percent limit to the fall in industrial production, the Economics Minister, Aleksandr Shokhin, told the State Duma at Tuesday's hearings on budget estimates. His ministry, he said, has already worked out a program for selective support for industries and a mechanism for mobilizing private investment under government guarantees to help support a number of industries, such as aircraft-building.

With reference to the budget estimates the deputy premier said that the evaluations of the Economics Ministry are in line with the indexes stipulated in the budget. According to Shokhin, the main task is to create strict boundaries for the use of budgetary funds in accordance with the planned goals.

With reference to the unification of Russian and Belarusian monetary systems Shokhin said that a formula for such unification has not been defined yet, and therefore the final documents are not likely to be signed in the near future.

Living Standards To 'Stabilize' in 1994

LD0504155494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 5 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—"As a result of slowing down rates of inflation, the development of small-scale business, farming, farmers' personal subsidiary plots, the revival in branches of the consumer sector of the economy and the implementation of social programs, we count to stabilize the living standards of the main part of the Russian population by the end of 1994," Yakov Urinson, first deputy minister of economics of Russia, stated on Tuesday speaking at parliamentary hearings on the draft of Russia's federal budget for 1994.

According to Yakov Urinson, the draft budget envisages the conducting of a moderately rigid financial policy with a balanced approach to the settlement of current and medium-term tasks. This approach implies a selective state support for highly efficient productions and the implementation of investment projects which are quickly repaid, as well as the expansion of sources of financing in social spheres.

The first deputy minister of economics believes that in 1994 workers' incomes and their minimum wages will increase. The ratio of the growth of the minimum wage and consumer prices is expected to be 85-90 per cent. The size of wages with due account for the expected subsistence wage will rise 4.9 times by the end of 1994. On the whole during the year real cash incomes of the population will decrease insignificantly in the course of the implementation of an active policy of economic stabilization, Yakov Urinson promised.

Economic Restructuring 'Virtually Ineffective'

LD0504161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Although conditions for a market economy were created in Russia last year, economic restructuring was virtually ineffective. This is evident from a report, entitled "Comprehensive Analysis of the Situation in Russia and Developments Forecast," drawn up by the Center for Social and Strategic Studies and presented at a news-conference in Moscow on Tuesday.

The report says that scientific research and high technology development has shrunk by 73 percent over the last two years while industry has been increasingly oriented on raw material output. The percentage of fuel, energy, metal, and chemicals in industrial production costs soared to 50 percent in 1993 from 30 percent in 1989-1991 whereas the share of machinery and consumer goods dwindled from 44 percent to 28 percent.

"Industrial decline is underway with an explicitly one-sided trend toward raw material production," the report underlines.

The government's economic policy last year is described as "the continuation of reforms without macroeconomic stabilization." The cabinet's strategy to bridge the budget deficit through reduced state expenditures proved ineffective.

Although efforts to keep the budget deficit within 10 percent succeeded this year, in fact this gap has proved larger than the officially announced deficiency since some profits and liabilities, like foreign loans and payment of interest on state debt, have been inaccurately declared.

Experts believe that there can be no talk of any national development unless the ruling political elite consolidates itself.

At the same time, they point to the problem of political terror in Russia. In their opinion, last year's series of murders of bankers was politically motivated.

Inflation Rate Slows Slightly in March

PM0604084594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Report based on data from the Russian Federation Government's Center for Economic Conditions: "No Comparison Between Taganrog and Magadan"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Government Center for Economic Conditions has summed up the results of the month. Judging by the operational figures revealed by

weekly price monitoring, the inflation rate in March was slightly down on last month at 8.7 percent (9.9 percent in February, 22 percent in January).

Foodstuffs increased in price by 6.2 percent over the month, while nonfood goods were up 11.3 percent, and paid services to the population rose by 14.6 percent.

The springtime vitamin deficiency and inflation have done their job—in March the most tangible price rises were for vegetables (up 24 percent). Bakery, groats, and pasta products were up 13-14 percent. Fish, dairy products, and fruit were up 10-11 percent. Prices for these products were slightly higher than the average growth in the price of foodstuffs—6.2 percent. But salt was out in front even here. It increased in price almost by a third in March. Prices for animal and vegetable fat rose insignificantly (by 4-5 percent). Prices for sugar and eggs were virtually unchanged. Vodka prices fell by 4 percent on average.

The biggest food price rises over the month were in the Northwest and East Siberian regions—by 12 and 10 percent respectively. On the other hand, foodstuffs in the Urals and Central Chernozem regions increased by just 3 percent.

Prices for foodstuffs as a whole have increased by 40.6 percent since the start of the year. The biggest rises have been for dairy products, vegetables, and salt—up 80 percent. Bakery products are up 60 percent.

Looking at the basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs, its average cost has increased by 7.3 percent over the month and by 44 percent since the start of the year to stand at 44,300 rubles [R] on a monthly basis. The basket cost R42,700 at store prices, and R56,900 at market prices. The spread between the maximum and minimum cost of the basket in different cities of Russia increased from a factor of 3.4 to 3.6 compared with the previous month. The most "expensive" area for the basket continues to be the Far East region at R79,200. The average cost of the basket in the Central Chernozem region (which was the "cheapest" in late March) was R33,100.

The cost of the basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs in Moscow increased by 5.7 percent in March to stand at R48,000. The basket increased by 15.4 percent over the month in St. Petersburg to stand at R49,200. On the list of cities surveyed Moscow ranks 39th most expensive (it was 33d a month ago), while St. Petersburg has leapfrogged Moscow to take 34th place (as opposed to 47th).

During March prices for nonfood goods rose twice as fast as food prices. As was the case in February prices rose by 2 percent on average every week. As was to be expected, fuel prices in March were out in front—up more than 30 percent, and 43 percent for coal. There was a significant rise in the price of wallpaper—up 26 percent—medicines, and synthetic detergents (up 24 percent). The smallest increases were for tobacco products and footwear (up 4 and 7 percent respectively).

Among Russia's economic regions the increases in nonfood goods were more noticeable in the Volga and East Siberia regions. But prices increased at different rates within the regions. Thus, for instance, over the past month prices for televisions in the Volga region and Kalmykia (which is part of that region) increased by 70 percent, wallpaper was up 30 percent, and the overall increase for nonfood goods was 23 percent. Yet in Saratov Oblast (in the same region) price rises for these goods did not exceed 7 percent.

The industrial goods boom has left the Volga-Vyatka region virtually untouched. Nonfood goods there were up 7 percent.

There continue to be considerable differences in the price of the same goods in different Russian cities. Thus, in late March prices for tobacco products differed approximately by a factor of five, and by a factor of 15 for analgin [type of analgesic]. Whereas a packet cost R56 in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the price was R810 in Yakutsk.

Output Falls in Agro-industrial Enterprises

LD0504214994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—The approach of spring field work has not changed the situation in Russia in industries working for the the agroindustrial complex; their enterprises are continuing to reduce their output. Agriculture Ministry experts believe that the drop in effective demand is the main reason holding back production of output for the agricultural sector of the economy. Prices for industrial products which are purchased by the agroindustrial complex are rising more quickly—11.4 times last year—than the prices for agricultural produce, which rose only 8.4 times.

Since the beginning of the year many plants have virtually been inoperative. According to Russia's State Committee for Statistics, in January production of mineral fertilizers was halted by the Belorechensk "Minudobreniya" association and the Uvarovo chemical works, and the manufacture of flax harvesting combines ceased even earlier at "Bezhetskselmash," the only manufacturer of this equipment in the country. Things are no better in the workforces which are continuing to work. For instance, at the start of the year the "Rostselmash" association produced only 0.6 percent of the January 1993 level of grain harvesting combines.

A no less alarming situation has arisen in the production of components and subassemblies which are used for making up complete units and in repairing equipment. A lack of spare parts has resulted in the fact that in the past year the number of tractor and combine engines repaired

at enterprises of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation fell by one-quarter, of tractors and grain harvesting combines by one-third, and of potato harvesting combines by half.

Government Approves Agrarian Reform Program

PM0604090794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Yelena Arakelyan report: "Harvest in Russia Ripens Faster Than the Laws"]

[Text] Our agriculture is planning to get out of the crisis. Last week the government presidium approved the latest program for agrarian reform in Russia—for 1994-95.

The government intends to use different methods to save the countryside. First and foremost, to recognize the peasants' legal right to private, joint-stock, and cooperative ownership. Admittedly, our private owners will only be able to exercise their right of land use under state control—so as to prevent any exploitation.

The government plans to protect the peasants not only from exploiters but also from competitors. The program contains the well-known demand for difficulties to be placed in the way of foreign food producers entering the Russian market.

Naturally, farmers will continue to be helped out materially. Specific sums are not mentioned in the program (clearly so as not to frighten representatives of other sectors at the outset) but it is proposed to provide "selective support" for stockraising and crop farming, as well as a number of other "infusions." Admittedly, a few innovations are planned. As of the second half of the year loans will, clearly, be issued to the agro-industrial complex not on the basis of their promised repayment, but on the basis of security—land, real estate, and so forth.

It is as yet hard to say to what extent all these plans and intentions will be carried out. Agriculture Minister V. Khlystun claims that 39 normative acts will have to be adopted for the program to work—including a new land code and a law on agricultural production sharing. And it is well known how such documents are adopted in our country. The fate of the agrarian program itself is a graphic example—the current version is the sixth.

One thing can be said for sure. The latest program, like all the preceding documents, does not answer the main question being asked by the peasants and all Russians—how does the state intend to protect (and not just restrict) the declared right of private land ownership? And will investments made by today's "private owners" be lost in a future "dekulakization" [expropriation of rich peasants] campaign?

The latest agricultural season will be starting in most areas in a couple of weeks. For the umpteenth time peasants will have to sow without knowing exactly what awaits them.

Ministry Forecasts Reduced Coal Mining

LD0504134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 5 BUSINESS-TASS—Russia is going to reduce the output of coal by 20 to 35 million tonnes in 1994 to 275 million tonnes, according to the Economy Ministry's forecast. One of the main problems facing the sector, according to experts from the Economy Ministry, is the continuing deterioration of the production assets in the mines, which increases the cost and the risk of mining.

Military Issues

Official Clarifies 1994 Arms Sales Goals

MK0604082094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Trade" rubric: "'Rosvooruzheniye' Is the Best Friend of the Military-Industrial Sector. But One Should Not Expect To Earn $20 Billion"]

[Text] Last week, the INTERFAX news agency reported: "Viktor Samoylov, general director of the state-owned "Rosvooruzheniye" company, believes that Russia could potentially sell $20 billion worth of arms and military hardware in 1994." General Samoylov has said in an interview for SEGODNYA, however, that "he was quoted not quite accurately." In 1993, arms exports amounted to around $2 billion, so a drastic ten-fold increase in exports is impossible in principle." "The signing of a military-technical export contract usually requires a few years of preparatory work, whereas our company has just been set up."

In 1994, the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company expects to achieve better results than it had in 1993, but not to increase exports "ten-fold." Gen. Samoylov also stressed that "Russia is by no means going to violate UN sanctions against Iraq, Libya, and Yugoslavia. Any such statements, whoever might make them, will only undermine faith in Russia as a trade partner."

A drastic reduction in state military orders has been prompting defense industry managers to demand that they be given a free hand in foreign trade. Many arms manufacturers have been conducting talks with various foreign middlemen for a number of years already, but not a single large contract has reached the signing stage.

Gen. Samoylov said that "'Rosvooruzheniye' has perfect relations with all the main arms manufacturers. As for the claims that the state company is a monster that may stifle the military-industrial sector, they come from those

whom the presidential edict on setting up the 'Rosvooruzheniye' state company has prevented from carrying out their effectively semi-criminal activity—attempts to export state-of-the-art weapons in small consignments or in single pieces."

Yeltsin Forms Western Group of Border Troops

LD0504192494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1830 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A decree of the Russian president on the formation of a western group of Russian border troops has been signed. The group will be subordinate to the center, with its directorate located in Voronezh. The objective of creating the western group of border troops is to perfect the leadership of border units protecting the state border with Ukraine.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Wounded in Gun Accident

LD0504144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin has been taken to hospital due to Sunday's wound in his right leg's tissue. The wound was caused by "a malfunction of his gun," head of the Black Sea Fleet press center Captain 1st Class Andrey Grachev told ITAR-TASS today over the telephone.

In the words of Grachev, "the wound is not dangerous, the commander feels well and will return to his duties in the near future". While Baltin is at hospital to undergo wound treatment and annual medical examination, his first deputy Vice-Admiral Vitaliy Larionov is temporary in charge of the Black Sea Fleet.

Fall 1993 Draft Extended Through Spring 1994

PM0504123594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Leonid Krutakov "Military Review": "Order to the Troops: 'The Fall Is To Be Considered the Spring!'"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **Minister Not Waiting for "Demobilization" Order. He Is in No Hurry**

The main event of the past week did not happen—Pavel Grachev did not sign the latest order for the discharge to the reserve and the new military draft. It was noted at the Defense Ministry Collegium session that it was only thanks to the fact that the "fall '93" draft had been extended through spring 1994 that it had finally been possible to achieve an 80-percent level of manpower acquisition for the Army. It is not being ruled out that in the future the trivial division of the year into spring, summer, fall, and winter may be marked by an order from the military department. That is nothing surprising if we are allowing ourselves to arbitrarily wind the hands of the clock on the Spasskaya Tower backward and forward.

The explanation of the draft situation given to us at the Defense Ministry was that an edict had not yet been issued by the commander in chief. But the secretariat of the commander in chief—who recently returned from Sochi—replied that all the documents are being prepared as before by the military department.

Yeltsin Revives Missiles, Artillery Academy

LD0504173794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict on the revival of the Russian Academy of Missiles and Artillery Sciences. The intention of the document is to revive traditions of Russian military studies as well as to further research in the defense sector and to train qualified specialists, the presidential press service reports.

Border Force General on Afghan Border Violations

LD0504172694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Last month Russian border guards detained 250 persons for illegally crossing the border. The total figure since the beginning of the year exceeds 900. This was disclosed in a Tuesday interview with INTERFAX by the chief of the information department of the Russian Border Force Major-General Aleksandr Manilov. He said that last month together with customs officials border guards seized over 120 kilos of drugs and 100 firearms in seven instances.

Manilov said the situation remains worst on the Tajik-Afghan border where 18 attempts by militants to break through were foiled last March. Frontier posts and pickets came under fire 11 times, in three cases from the territory of Afghanistan.

The general expects a rise in the activeness of militants on the border, primarily on the Pyandzh, Moskovsky and Horog sections, and a simultaneous rise in terrorism on the Tajik side of the frontier.

If the talks between the Tajik Government and opposition fail, Manilov said, the so-called government in exile will evidently launch coordinated actions in the areas of Kalai-Hum, Horog and Ishkashim.

Manilov described the situation on other sections of the border as "relatively stable".

Federal Assembly

Budget Law Rejection Leaves Yeltsin Without Salary

LD0504120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By parliamentary correspondent ITAR-TASS Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—"Because of the unacceptability of certain points," deputies of the Federation Council rejected today a federal law adopted by the State Duma "On Financing Federal Budget Spending in the Second Quarter of 1994."

In accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution, in this situation, chambers "can set up a conciliatory commission in order to overcome the differences." Deputies have instructed the budget committee to start negotiations with the State Duma regarding forming such a commission and preparing a new version of the two points of the law, which the Federation Council has rejected.

This decision was made five minutes before the lunch break in the chamber's day session. Sergey Alcksashenko, deputy finance minister, informed deputies that because there was no federal law on financing in the second quarter, the ministry will stop "as of tomorrow morning all financing operations, starting with the salary of the Russian Federation president." He explained that the Finance Ministry needs a law entitling it to spend money. However, there was no reaction from deputies rushing out for lunch.

Council Explains 'Rejection'

LD0504133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The Federation Council hurried to explain that the rejection of budget appropriations for the second quarter of 1994 "should not be assessed as a contraposition to the State Duma or the Russian president".

Its press service said in a statement on Tuesday that only 10 lawmakers of the upper chamber were categorically against the document, while 82 were in favour of it. "The overwhelming majority voted to create... a conciliatory commission jointly with Duma members and edit certain articles of the document", the statement said.

"Such a principled position of the Federation Council is more important for the state than an automatic adoption of all lawbills submitted to the upper chamber without their thorough study", the document reads.

Council Approves Budget Law

LD0504151294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov has just reported that returning after the break to the law on financing expenditure from the federal budget in the second quarter, the Federation Council approved it by 103 votes. I will recall that in the morning the upper chamber of the Russian parliament rejected this law which had already been adopted by the State Duma.

Federation Council Votes Down Duma Legislation

LD0504175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The Federation Council voted down today the federal law "on procedure to publish and introduce federal constitutional laws, federal laws and bills of the Russian Federal Assembly's chambers" adopted by the State Duma due to the "inadmissibility of its certain articles and items".

This is the second law submitted by the parliament's lower chamber to the upper one in accordance with the Constitution. The first law, on budget financing of spending in the second quarter of 1994, was approved today in repeated voting.

"There is nothing dramatic about this," believes Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko. In his opinion, "this proves that the Federation Council takes its work seriously".

In accordance with the Constitution, a conciliatory commission to include members of both parliament chambers will be set up to settle the differences.

Parliamentarians Pledge Support for Defense Industry

MK0604081094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Yevgeniy Spiridonov (ADS) report in the "Military Industrial Complex" column: "The State Defense Industry Committee (Goskomoboronprom) Warns That Defense Is Weakening. Enterprises Do Not Want To Fill Military Orders at Their Own Expense"]

[Text] If the government allocates a mere 5.5 trillion rubles [R] for defense, arms, and military hardware production while at least R28 trillion is required to maintain Russia's defense capability, a decision should be made to abolish the military order in principle because the funds allocated will barely be enough to cover defense enterprise debts, and will secure standby status for the space and nuclear forces. This was announced by Yuriy Glybin, Goskomoboronprom's

first deputy chairman, at a joint session of Goskomoboronprom and the State Duma's Committee on Industry, Construction, Transport, and Power Engineering leadership held at the defense industries headquarters on 4 April.

Mr. Glybin complained that in order to offset the cost of arms and military hardware production, unpaid by the Defense Ministry, defense industry enterprises have to seek credits from commercial banks and repay them out of their profits received from marketing civilian goods. Last year, for example, no more than 30 percent of enterprises in the defense sector were solvent, mainly because, Yuriy Glybin believes, they had to pay R400 billion from their profits to repay commercial credits on defense orders. The Defense Ministry still owes the enterprises R870 billion. Naturally the enterprises are refusing to credit state defense expenditures, and by the end of March, for instance, they have signed merely 35 percent of contracts sought by customers.

Vitaliy Vizirov, chief of Goskomoboronprom's Main Science, Technology, and Conversion Directorate, said in particular that in the military aviation sector only 17 aircraft are to be manufactured—half of an annual production program of one enterprise. Last year, he said, not a single new military equipment or weapon prototype was developed. A mere 3 to 7 percent of the requisite funds is allocated to continue the building of warships, so they will take some 20 years to complete. Armor production capacities are also operated at 8 to 10 percent.

Yelena Novikova, chief of Goskomoboronprom's General Economic Directorate, stated that with the defense expenditures envisioned under the 1994 draft budget, one should think not about filling the military production order but about closing and converting, in a civilized way, nearly one-third of defense enterprises so as not to leave 1.4 million people without the means of livelihood.

The meeting closed without any specific decisions or political statements although some parliamentarians were ready to raise the question of whether the situation within the military industrial complex has not come about a result of high treason on the part of the executive branch. At any rate, the parliamentarians promised the defense industry their support in discussing the draft budget in the State Duma on condition that the latter "put an end to political inaction."

Duma Economic Chief Urges 'Active' Policy

PM0504145894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1,3

[Interview with Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy, by Yelena Tokareva; place, date not given: "I Am for Order in the Economy and Finance"]

[Text] Sergey Yuryevich Glazyev, age 33, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy. Doctor of economic sciences. Author of 100 works on questions of the economic development of Russia and the USSR. Since the early nineties he has been working on problems of the structural crisis in the country's economy. Author of the monograph "Theory of the Long-Term Technical and Economic Development of Russia and the USSR." Less than a month ago, S. Glazyev organized parliamentary hearings in the State Duma on questions of the crisis in our economy and programs for emerging from it. These hearings were attended by virtually all the authors of programs for emerging from the crisis: from Academicians Shatalin and Petrakov to Urinson, first deputy minister of the economy, and Saburov, now premier of the Republic of the Crimea.

[Tokareva] Sergey Yuryevich, you act like a man who knows his way in a fog. Could you formulate briefly and comprehensibly your amendments to the recent economic course which we know by the name of "shock therapy"?

[Glazyev] The amendments have been generally recognized. They were in evidence at the parliamentary hearings. And in the president's message. First—the need to pursue an active structural policy. In our conditions, where there is a technological, mixed economy in which hopelessly outdated production facilities exist alongside new ones, while the latter are oriented toward state demand, it is impossible to achieve market equilibrium quickly. Without an active state policy of conversion to a modern, high-tech industry, the modernization of obsolete production facilities, and incentives for the growth of new facilities, it will be impossible to clamber out of the spiral of recession. Market equilibrium will be achieved at the cost of the destruction of the scientific and technical complex and the loss of potential for future economic growth.

Second. The imposition of order in the state sector of the economy. Today, with a view to reducing the budget deficit, items of expenditure on science, education, and health care, on which our society's future is directly dependent, are being axed. Yet nobody is worried about efficiency in the utilization of state property or the income from its privatization.

Third. The imposition of order in state finances. I do not believe a single country with a market economy has experienced such a voluntarist approach to regulating the money supply. This also applies to the cavalier treatment of the state budget, where mistakes in the correlation between income and expenditure amount to several orders of magnitude, and a balance is achieved through self-interested manipulations involving the arbitrary sequestration of expenditure and the control of credit emissions for the refinancing of commercial banks.

Unless these obvious gaps and shortcomings in the government's economic policy are eliminated, it will be impossible either to halt the decline in production or to get inflation down. Whether by orthodox methods of macroeconomic regulation, or by heterodox methods involving price regulation. Although either of these could prove productive in combination with an active policy in the three above-mentioned areas.

Let me explain. An active economic policy is called active precisely because it makes provision for purposeful actions.

In particular, it may use such instruments as the state order, targeted federal programs, and, where necessary and possible, price regulation. If such a policy is not pursued, we must reconcile ourselves to living with galloping inflation, rapidly destroying production, which cannot develop in conditions where price correlations are constantly changing. It should, however, be borne in mind that price regulation may be successfully applied by the state only when the purpose of the regulation is clear. When the period for which it applies is clearly defined. And when the consequences are reliably predicted. A temporary price freeze may be used as one component in a wide package of measures in the event that a policy of drastically reducing inflation is chosen.

It is obvious today that the style of combating inflation used over the past two years is not producing the desired results. We can see that the task set at the beginning of the year, of achieving a reduction in inflation to a level of 3-5 percent a month, cannot be achieved by using only the instruments of limiting the state budget deficit and regulating credit emissions, and the inflation rate is hovering around 20 percent a month, a level we are now accustomed to. The reasons for this are also clear. The toughening of monetary and credit policy in the aforesaid two parameters provokes stubborn resistance at microeconomic level, as manifested in the nonpayments crisis and pressure from the regions and commercial banks with a view to obtaining ever more credits. A periodical and tough monetary policy is supplanted by a constant stream of credits and state expenditure.

As a result, instead of the desired 3-5 percent inflation a month, we are seeing inflation hovering between 10 and 25 percent a month. There is no sign of a clear dependence between credit and monetary policy and the inflation rate. For more than two years now we have been in a rut, pursuing one and the same goal, which appears unattainable. It is time to wise up.

[Tokareva] What is the alternative?

[Glazyev] There are several tried and tested means of combating inflation. For instance, an agreement on rigorous discipline and self-restraint on income by the economic agents. It is necessary to seek a rationalization and clarification of the Central Bank's credit policy and to have a budget based on reliable forecasts and a properly functioning state sector, both of which should play an important stabilizing role in the economy. If, of course, we really want to suppress inflation quickly.

[Tokareva] And after that? Although, to be honest, I do not believe in quick methods. Inflation has been building up for five years. It will take five years to cure it, too.

[Glazyev] After that, if we succeed in reducing inflationary expectations, we can reduce the interest rate on credits from 200 percent to 15-20 percent, carry out a de-indexation of incomes, ensure compliance with contract discipline, and stabilize the macroeconomic situation.

[Tokareva] Why has this path not been taken?

[Glazyev] Because it requires major efforts. An enormous effort by the entire state apparatus. The policy that has been pursued requires no effort at all. That is simpler and, strange as it may seem, more profitable. Though not, of course, for the state.

[Tokareva] During the discussion of the president's message in the Duma, you said that the Cabinet is rejecting all amendments to the current course.

[Glazyev] Not rejecting, but not accepting. The prime minister has formally adopted the president's message for execution. And the existing government program formally accords with the president's message. The problem is that there is a huge gulf between the government program of August, the recent government statements which we have heard, and actual practice. Programs exist, you can read them and rejoice in the authors' good intentions, but reality goes on in its own sweet way.

[Tokareva] Maybe the executive hierarchy feels rather weak and is therefore not embarking on great deeds?

[Glazyev] Of course, executive discipline is lacking, as are qualifications and political will. Therefore we continue to insist on a clear action plan. We are glad that the president's message coincided with our recommendations on questions of economic policy. But we need a plan consisting of measures for implementation by specific persons. Accountability. A time scale. Only thus will words become deeds.

[Tokareva] But nowadays we do not have a party that can use fear to call its members to account.

[Glazyev] The president has sufficient levers to make the government implement the domestic policy he has proclaimed.

Regional Affairs

Moscow Mayor Suspends Privatization of Real Estate

LD0604075794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0649 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr—Pending the release of an edict by the Russian president defining special regulations for privatizing property on the territory of the capital and the approval of a municipal program of privatization for 1994, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has suspended denationalization of real estate by his own instruction.

The document says: "To suspend temporarily the privatization of buildings and nonresidential premises unless they are to be part of the company capital of joint-stock companies set up by transforming state enterprises in accordance with the existing legislation." The mayor declined to entrust anyone with supervising the implementation of instruction and reserved the supervision for himself.

North Ossetians Approve State of Emergency Extension

LD0604104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1032 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz 6 April, TASS—"The Russian president's decree on extending the state of emergency had a positive response among the North Ossetian population on the whole, since there is a threat of another conflict now," North Ossetian Vice-Premier Georgiy Kozayev told ITAR-TASS here on Wednesday.

"Therefore, the extension of the state of emergency in some areas by another two months is a necessary measure. Russian peace keepers are the main guarantor of security in the conflict zone," he added.

Kozayev noted that the North Ossetian leadership is very concerned over the safety of machine operators engaged in spring sowing: Several cases were registered when tractor drivers were blown up by mines.

The temporary administration and the republican Interior Ministry came forward with an initiative to station mobile patrols in localities, which now exercise control over spring sowing in areas bordering Ingushetia.

According to Kozayev, the key issue for the republican leadership is the comprehensive solution of the problem of refugees as well as their housing. He said that a residential area out of prefabricated houses mushroomed in the village of Zavodsky in a Vladikavkaz suburb.

It will house refugee families from the Prigorodnyy district (it is divided between North Ossetia and Ingushetia), Georgia, the Chechen Republic and Tajikistan. The list of future residents was determined by a commission of the industrial district administration together with the republican migration service.

The migration service now works on the lists of refugees to be housed in the Mozdok, Sovetskiy and Leninskiy districts of the Republic.

Kalmykian Assembly Abolishes Republican Constitution

LD0504125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Bessarabov]

[Text] Elista 5 April, TASS—The constitutional assembly of Kalmykia, a steppe republic in southern Russia, has abolished its Constitution on Tuesday and adopted a new one called the "Steppe Charter."

"Kalmykia has raised to a new level in its development. A new historic step was made. Only unity can help us survive," President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov stated.

Ilyumzhinov had earlier announced his intention to abolish the republican constitution, which caused a mixed reaction in Moscow.

According to the Russian Constitution, republics within the Federation have their own constitutions, while regions and territories have their charters. The status of a subject of the Russian Federation can be changed only upon agreement with the Federation.

Kaliningrad Oblast Election Results Viewed

PM0504135594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Sergey Balyutskiy: "The Winner Was Kaliningrad's Biggest Party—the Electorate"]

[Text] Kaliningrad Oblast—Compared with other regions of Russia the elections in its Westernmost Oblast—Kaliningrad Oblast—proceeded almost smoothly. They will have to be held again in one of the 21 electoral districts. That is the quantitative aspect, as they say.

As for the qualitative aspect, here there are only enigmas. After all, today no one here can answer a seemingly simple question like who, what political force, will call the tune in the oblast duma? The actual ban on running on party lists and the considerably simpler registration procedure for independent deputies than for deputies from political parties and associations (the former had to submit a protocol from a voters' meeting in which at least 30 people took part!) have led to the point where all elected deputies will represent themselves. Nor have the bureaucrats had any luck. Even Kaliningrad Mayor V. Shipov lost his round to the doctor G. Petrachenko.

Indifference was the dominant feeling among the Kaliningrad people. That is borne out by the number of those who came to vote—two-thirds of the voters registered on the lists stayed at home that day.

Prominent Names Fall in St Petersburg Elections

MK0504114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Pozdnyakov in the "Embarrassment" column: "Half the St. Petersburg City Assembly Has Been Elected. 'Strange People' Have Beaten Election Blocs Leaders"]

[Text] Although, according to some reports, a mere 18 percent of the electorate turned out, the second round of elections to the St. Petersburg City Assembly has taken place. The results have shaken the major election blocs. Their leaders—Aleksandr Belyayev, former chairman of the St. Petersburg City Council and Federation Council deputy (Democratic Unity of St. Petersburg); and Viktor Kharchenko, former chief of the Baltic Shipping Company (Working St. Petersburg)—failed to get into the City Assembly. Mr. Belyayev was unexpectedly defeated

in his own constituency by Aleksandr Shchelkanov, the former first democratically elected mayor of Leningrad who ran as an independent candidate, and Mr. Kharchenko was left far behind by Sergey Andreyev, leader of the For Justice movement, known for his participation in all election campaigns in the city.

As of now, Vice Mayor Vyacheslav Shcherbakov and the mayor's chief adviser Vatanyar Yagya, who are in opposition to City Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, will sit in the new City Assembly. The representative power body of Russia's second largest city will also include the "doctors'" candidate Leonid Petrov, who swore to introduce stable bread prices; and Valeriy Selivanov, who, in addition to that, promised regulated prices for major foodstuffs. None of the blocs obtained not only a majority in the future City Assembly, but even a sufficient number of seats to produce any influence on its activity.

It can be concluded that the St. Petersburg electors have in their majority voted "against moneybags," which manifested itself especially graphically in the defeat of Mr. Kharchenko and Ilya Baskin, a well-known entrepreneur from the Democratic Unity of St. Petersburg bloc. Observers are worried most by the victory of obviously fringe individuals like Mr. Andreyev (who won notoriety for forging signatures and stealing seals in all organizations where he worked initially and then registering the International Institute for Baltic Studies as a public organization in which he eventually turned out to be the sole member—its "director"). Commentators note that the democratic forces, after the first round of the elections, hastened to take comfort in the defeat of the "Zhirinovskiy-ites", communists and nationalists, and, a result, victory went to candidates like Mr. Andreyev.

It is not known how the election blocs will behave after their devastating surprise defeat. Possibly, by joining their efforts, the blocs will be able to have the election results annulled, especially given that the Mayor's Office, having ended up with only half the City Assembly, partially reminiscent of a chamber of curiosities, may not uphold the legitimacy of its decisions with its previous fervor. In any event, the City Assembly cannot start working before fall owing to a lack of a quorum, and it is not ruled out that the election blocs leaders, drawing a lesson from the mistakes of the first election round, will be able to avenge themselves at least partially in the fall race for mandates.

Kemerovo Legislature Elects Chairman

LD0504161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Kemerovo regional legislature unanimously elected Amangeldiy Tuleyev its chairman. His candidacy was not opposed. He previously chaired the former regional soviet.

Tuleyev, 50, is a Federation Council member. In the 1991 presidential elections he won the fourth, last but one, place. Now he is in opposition to Federal Authorities.

In its address to the local population, the Kemerovo legislature declared its willingness to continue the constructive work of the former regional soviet.

Tuleyev Backers Win Two-Thirds Kemerovo Assembly Seats

PM0604101794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Elections" rubric: "A. Tuleyev's Supporters Win"]

[Text] Siberia is one of the last Russian regions to sum up the results of the March elections to organs of representative power. According to the electoral commission's data, 30 deputies out of 35 hopefuls were elected to the Kuzbass' oblast representative organ of power, the legislative assembly. An unprecedentedly low voter turnout was noted—approximately one-third of registered voters went to the polls.

Approximately two-thirds of seats in the legislative assembly were won by supporters of Aman Tuleyev, former chairman of Kemerovo Oblast Soviet, who is vigorously campaigning for a revision of the course of economic reforms being taken by the Russian Government.

Kray Predicted To Be 'Ecological Disaster'

944F0536A Vladvostok VLADIVOSTOK in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by VLADIVOSTOK correspondent Sergey Bulakh: "Ecological Catastrophe in Bolshoy Kamen Is Perhaps Two Months Away"]

[Text] As we have already reported, the commission headed by Yevgeniy Stomatyuk, chairman of the kray administration committee for natural resources, worked in Bolshoy Kamen on Wednesday with a group of journalists. It visited the Vostok and Zvezda plants, where nuclear submarines are dismantled and radioactive waste stored.

As a result of eight hours of work at the city and plant administration offices and an examination of the facilities where liquid radioactive waste is kept, the commission prepared a protocol which states unequivocally that the situation in Bolshoy Kamen is fast approaching critical. The main conclusion: "We should expect an emergency situation involving TNT-5 to develop in April-May."

The liquid radioactive waste problem is increasingly often associated with the Far Eastern plant Zvezda. According to the commission's estimate, about 2,253 cubic meters of it is kept here, with total radioactivity exceeding 30 curies. It is all kept in seven tankers, which are moored at the plant's piers. Two tankers—TNT-5 and TNT-27—acquired notoriety around the world after

the liquid radioactive waste dumping in October of last year, and the third—TNT Pinega—is just beginning service in this capacity.

TNT-5 is currently in the most critical situation. The vessel, built at the beginning of the 1960's and decommissioned two years ago, now represents the main danger. Its tanks hold 794 cubic meters of liquid radioactive waste with a total radioactivity of 0.776 curies. Over the past three months the radiation level in the stern and engine compartments increased threefold and now measures 1,400 microroentgen an hour. Because of malfunctioning systems and equipment, up to 10 cubic meters spilled from the tanks into the vessel's body over this time. Analysis of radionuclides in the tankers and samples of soil at the pier under the mooring area show that radioactive waste may leak not only into the tanker's body but also into the bay's aquatic area.

The opinion of the commission, which consisted of representatives of various agencies, as well as those of Bolshoy Kamen, the plant, and the Pacific Fleet administrations, is unanimous: Tanker TNT-5 has to be urgently hauled outside Bolshoy Kamen bay and the content of its tanks dumped.

These and many other conclusions may remain on paper, however.

"The problem is that radioactive waste is stored on the territory of the Zvezda plant, but does not belong to it," the enterprise's chief engineer Yuriy Shulgan said at the meeting with the commission. "The owner is the Pacific Fleet."

"After the Government of Russia banned liquid radioactive waste dumping, the fleet also has been unable to resolve this problem," emphasized the Pacific Fleet deputy commander, Rear Admiral Nikolay Lysenko.

The facility for storage and processing of radioactive waste, including liquid, which existed in the 1960's at the Sysoyev Cape was closed down temporarily by the Pacific Fleet more than 20 years ago; in the opinion of specialists, it is unlikely that this facility could be restored.

Construction of a new facility, regardless of which design and whose money was used, cannot be accomplished in less than six to nine months. Meanwhile, the tanker, despite the fleet's energetic efforts to keep it afloat, may, if not sink, at least begin seriously leaking radioactive waste.

"Right now we are only talking about the waste stored in the tanker, but this is only part of the problem," emphasized Dmitriy Gichev, deputy chief of the Vladivostok consolidated inspectorate for nuclear and radioactive safety. "Over 30 years of active exploitation, the TNT itself has become a source of radioactive contamination. Even if we pump the contents out of it, there remains the equally serious problem of dismantling the tanker itself."

The commission's protocol is as alarming as it is hopeless. Maritime Kray is unable to solve a problem whose roots are in Moscow. Neither the plants, nor the fleet, nor the administration received any reply to their numerous appeals to Moscow. Just as there is no federal financing for the program of improving radiation safety drafted by the Government of Russia in August last year. The issue of building a radioactive waste processing facility in Maritime Kray was to be resolved under the provisions of this program.

Moreover, from the faraway offices of the Moscow military brass an order arrived at the fleet to prohibit access to military facilities to anyone whatsoever. Therefore, the kray commission had to go to Moscow to obtain permission to examine the decommissioned TNT-5. Journalists were not permitted on board this "classified military facility" (which, I repeat, was decommissioned from the Pacific Fleet two years ago).

Compared to other enterprises (the Urals Mayak plant, for instance, is in need of reprocessing liquid radioactive waste with a radioactivity level of 500 million curies), Bolshoy Kamen's 30 curies may look like a drop in the bucket, but it is our ocean, as it is our land on which we live and the products of which we consume. Why should we all remain hostages to a government that is trying to maintain a good image in the eyes of the world at the expense of our health and safety?

By the way, in the opinion of specialists, if a catastrophe with TNT-5 does occur in Bolshoy Kamen, because of the specificity of underwater currents the main victim will be Vladvostok. Specialists already note a higher radioactivity of bottom-layer sediment in Shamora and Tavaiza bays as a result of work with nuclear submarines at the Zvezda plant.

So far the situation in Bolshoy Kamen is relatively calm. The plants were promised a 200,000 ruble advance for February, provided there is enough cash. Another nuclear submarine has arrived for repairs. On the one hand, it is work for thousands of people; on the other, new cubic meters of radioactive water, which may become the last drop that will cause the cup of radioactive equilibrium to overflow—and then we will have an ecological catastrophe. The bureaucrats in Moscow refuse to see this, however.

International Affairs

Zvyahilskyy, U.S. Envoy Discuss Crimea, Agricultural Issues

WS0504173794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] On 5 April, Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy received U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller. In the course of a very frank conversation, the ambassador spoke about his impressions after visiting the Crimea and meeting with Crimean leaders. He pointed out that the United States regards the Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine and sees the resolution of the peninsula's problems in the economic sphere. The ambassador underlined that assistance granted by the United States to Ukraine for the implementation of joint projects, is also meant for businesses in the Crimea. The sides also discussed the issue of assisting Ukraine in resettling Crimean Tatar emigrants and resolving problems related to the Chernobyl catastrophe. A wide range of issues concerning agricultural cooperation were also tackled. The meeting was attended by Yuriy Karasyk, Ukrainian minister of agriculture and food.

Crimean President Returns From Cyprus

LD0604090694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2305 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 6 Apr—Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, returned to Simferopol from a business trip to Cyrpus nearly eight hours late. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by a member of staff on duty at Yuriy Meshkov's office that the delay occurred when Turkey, over whose territory the Crimean president's plane was due to fly, unexpectedly closed its airspace. As a result of the incident, which the member of staff believes to have been caused by a "misunderstanding," the plane landed in Simferopol at about 0200. [passage omitted]

UN Transfers 1,000 Ukrainian Peacekeepers to Gorazde

LD0504114194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The UN Security Council has decided to transfer 1,000 servicemen from the Ukrainian battalion to the Bosnian town of Gorazde to stabilize the situation following renewed armed clashes between Bosnian Muslims and Serbs, said UN Security Council President Colin Keating of New Zealand after [word indistinct] consultations with the Council on (?Monday).

Military Leaders Expected in Crimea; Purpose 'Not Known'

LD0504131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—A group of Ukrainian military leaders, including Minister of Defense Vitaliy Radetskyy, will arrive in the Crimea today. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from informed sources at the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet. The purpose of the Ukrainian generals' coming to the peninsula is not known either to the administration of the Crimea or to the command of the Black Sea Fleet.

This same source reports that the group also includes Chief of the Intelligence Administration of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Major-General Vehunnikov, commander of the Air Force, Major-General Antonets, chief of staff of the National Guard Mokhov, and Chief of the Second Counterintelligence Administration Major-General Kravchenko. All of the said generals are coming to the peninsula in the course of today separately, by different means of transport, without preliminary agreement with the local authorities, and this has provoked a protest from the leadership of the peninsula.

President of the Crimea Yuriy Meshkov is to return to Simferopol after a business visit to Cyprus at 1800 today.

Fleet Commander Baltin Wounds Self While Handling Gun

WS0504155094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report attributed to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service]

[Text] On 3 April 1994, Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, was brought to the Sevastopol Navy hospital with a bullet wound to the thigh. Due to the fact that the Black Sea Fleet has issued no official communique on this accident, various rumors have started to circulate. To avoid this, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service reports that as has become known, Admiral Baltin was wounded at his summer house as a result of careless handling of his gun.

Defense Ministry Confirms Accident

LD0504155194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev 5 April, TASS—The Ukrainian Defence Ministry press center confirmed today that Black Sea

Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin wounded himself in hip due to careless treatment of a gun at his countryside cottage.

Deputy Minister on Nuclear Fuel Shipment, U.S. Aid

WS0504195194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Russia has sent a shipment of fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power plants and thus, started to fulfill part of its commitments. With regard to the U.S. payment of $60 million to Russia, this issue has also been resolved. This was stated today by Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk. He underlined that the United States has created an impressive legal footing and outlined the directions for assisting nuclear disarmament in Ukraine. According to the deputy foreign minister, the sum of $350 million will be subject to corrections depending on real needs and possibilities. Borys Tarasyuk underlined that an agreement has been signed with Japan on granting Ukraine tens of millions of dollars worth of assistance. Discussions are being held with Italy on aid in the form of new technologies. The deputy foreign minister expressed hope that the new legislature will positively resolve the issue of Ukraine joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

IAEA Statement 'Highly Critical' of Chernobyl Safety

PM0504135294 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 2 Apr 94 p 4

[TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA/SVENSKA DAGBLADET report: "'Chernobyl Reactors Highly Dangerous'"]

[Text] New York/Moscow—The International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, views with great concern the risk of a new catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine.

"The two reactors still in operation are highly dangerous," said IAEA head Hans Blix in an interview with TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA.

The reactors should really have been shut down by now, but last fall Ukraine reversed this decision. The reason given was that the country could not afford to do without them.

A group of inspectors from the IAEA, a UN agency, visited Chernobyl a few weeks ago, and on Thursday [30 March] IAEA headquarters issued a statement highly critical of the power station. The group found that there was much to be criticized at the nuclear power station.

"During the inspection several shortfalls in the field of safety were discovered at the two units still in operation at the power station," the announcement states.

"Trained personnel have left and there is no money for spare parts," Blix said.

"I have recently informed Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk that the Chernobyl reactors are completely unsatisfactory from the safety viewpoint," he added.

Hans Blix also offered to arrange a meeting in Vienna to discuss with Ukraine how the safety crisis at Chernobyl can be resolved. According to Thursday's statement from the IAEA in Vienna, President Kravchuk has responded positively to the offer.

A 70-page report on the visit to Chernobyl by the group of inspectors is being put together, but an IAEA spokesman said that it is still too early to be able to say whether the inspectors' conclusion will be that Chernobyl should be shut down completely.

The IAEA's negative criticism of safety at Chernobyl was received with mixed feelings in Ukraine, SVENSKA DAGBLADET's Moscow correspondent reports.

"If there were any real danger we would be ordered to shut down the installation. I view this simply as a call that we continue to improve our work in the field of safety," said Mikhail Umanets, the man chiefly responsible for Ukraine's nuclear power industry.

But there were other voices that agreed completely with the IAEA's criticism. Valentin Kupnyy, who is responsible for the safety zone around the installation, said that "the sooner the installation is shut down, the better it will be for Ukraine and the country's neighbors."

Valentin Kupnyy also said that those who today support the continued exploitation of Chernobyl are more interested in the enormous amounts of money that have already been invested than in safety improvements.

"The IAEA did nothing more than note the facts and this is something we have to accept, whether we like it or not," Kupnyy said.

There are plans to reopen the third reactor, which was damaged by fire in 1991, next year. However, the authorities have still not reached a decision on a new vault around the fourth reactor, which caused the 1986 catastrophe.

"I have received information that the protective covering that exists today has already begun to crack. We are sitting on a time bomb and a frightful catastrophe could occur," Yuriy Bagrov, the president of the fund to help the victims of Chernobyl, told SVENSKA DAGBLADET during a visit to Kiev a little over a month ago.

It was the economic crisis in Ukraine that prompted the authorities—despite international protests—to reopen Chernobyl. Ukraine had suddenly been forced to pay world market prices for gas and oil from Russia—something for which there was no money. Nuclear power provides 40 percent of Ukraine's electricity supplies and in order to reduce dependence on Russia Ukraine is

intending to bring another three new reactors into service over the next 18 months.

National Affairs

Meshkov's Absence Linked to 'Mounting Tension' in Crimea

LD0504170994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] As a top Black Sea Navy officer has reported to INTERFAX, tension is mounting in the Crimea.

He linked this primarily to the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's current unofficial visit to Cyprus, where he has been kept from returning. As he explained, the presidential plane cannot leave Cyprus because the Turkish authorities have not given permission for its flight over their air space. The most likely reason for their refusal is that the flight has been requested later than is stipulated by Turkish legislation.

As a spokesman for Meshkov's administration has reported, presidential aides in Simferopol have asked Russia's Foreign Ministry to help settle the affair.

"Meshkov's plane was registered in Ukraine. This means that no one but the Ukrainian authorities should interfere," a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official explained. The authorities could easily do so since the Ukrainian Embassy in Ankara has been functioning for two years now, he added.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskiy, accompanied by a unit of national guards, arrived in Simferopol without any preliminary agreement with the presidential administration. Some other Ukrainian generals are now in the Crimean capital. Among them—a deputy chief of staff and senior security and intelligence officers.

The Chief of the Ukrainian Air Force Headquarters Anatoliy Lopata is in Sevastopol for inspection. The Ukrainian President's Military Adviser Vladimir Petenko is also in the Crimean port.

Situation 'Aggravated' by Arrival of Military Officials

LD0504165294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow 5 April, TASS—The arrival of Ukrainian supreme military officials and special units in Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, without any coordination with the Crimean leadership and notification of the Fleet Command aggravated the Crimean situation today.

Some 30 servicemen of special units of the Ukrainian National Guard and the Ukrainian Interior Ministry arrived in the base this morning on board the plane of the deputy head of the Ukrainian armed forces general staff, military sources in Sevastopol told ITAR-TASS. The servicemen settled at the Slavutich ship of the Ukrainian Navy Department.

Another 500 special unit servicemen settled at the Nakhimov navy school in Sevastopol. The Black Sea Fleet Command is ready to put the fleet on the alert in case of a conflict.

There is no reports about movement of Ukrainian troops stationed in the peninsula. According to the Russian military, the Ukrainian troops stationed in the Crimea increased from 18,000 to 51,000 men within the past two years.

Well-informed sources told ITAR-TASS Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov failed to return to the Crimea at 1800 today as it was planned since Turkey closed its skies to the presidential plane without any announced reasons. Meshkov is expected to return to Simferopol at 0100 on 6 April.

In the opinion of observers, the developments are not accidental. A decree of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was made public in the absence of Meshkov to announce the introduction of a post of Kravchuk representative in the Crimea, which was followed by the arrival of the Ukrainian military officials and special units.

Observers think President Kravchuk may explore the ground for the introduction of a special rule in the Crimea and subordination of Yuriy Meshkov to his representative.

Future Official Visits to Crimea To Be Agreed

LD0504183594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1753 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Simferopol, 5 Apr—Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has assured Crimean Government Vice Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov that in the future, visits by representives of the leading departments of the Ukraine and the Crimea will be made with his knowledge and be agreed upon with the leadership of the Crimean Republic. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by Valeriy Grishankov, head of the Crimean president's staff.

It was reported earlier that a large group of top officials of the leading ministries of the Ukraine—the ministries of defense, national guard, and internal affairs—led by Anatoliy Lopata, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, had suddenly arrived this afternoon in the Crimea from Kiev.

The head of the Crimean president's staff also said the reason for such a mass and unexpected visit by the top military brass to the Crimea was explained by officials of the Ukrainian president's staff as being a coincidence, since it turned out that each of the generals had his own plans for the peninsula.

Plyushch Interviewed on Current Issues

LD0504173294

[Editorial report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 1200 GMT on 5 April carries in its "Nezalezhnist" [Independence] program a 40-minute live interview with Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, conducted by Serhiy Omelchuk.

Omelchuk first asks about relations between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Plyushch, which lately seem to have become "somewhat strained." He says: "Mr. Kravchuk recently said: Ivan Stepanovych and I do not disagree in principle. Do you share this opinion of the president?"

Plyushch replies: "First of all, I would sincerely like to say that I completely share this opinion and believe that not only do we not disagree in principle, but Leonid Makarovych and I have virtually never had any strategic differences about who we are and where we are going. Leonid Makarovych and I have had tactical differences."

Answering a question on forecasts of the run-off parliamentary election outcome, Plyushch says: "I would like to say, you know that this is no longer a forecast but almost reality. It was a forecast when I met European and world representatives who came to observe our elections. I then said I was convinced that elections would take place in the majority of constituencies. I am happy—I did not expect it and I am also pleasantly surprised—that elections took place in all 450 constituencies." He goes on: "It is now my deep conviction—which was also demonstrated by the experience of the 34 constituencies where the elections were held on 2-3 April, when 29 out of 34 constituencies did elect their people's deputies—this is why I have every ground to believe that a viable Supreme Council of Ukraine will have been elected (?some time) by 10 April."

Having praised the political wisdom of the people of Ukraine, Plyushch reiterates that the election will produce a capable team coming to the newly-elected legislature.

Asked how soon he thinks that the new parliament will be convened, Plyushch replies that, after the final run-offs on 10 April, he expects the results to be known on 12-13 April. He continues: "According to the law, the Central Electoral Commission has 10 days to verify the validity and legitimacy of elections. Thus, ideally, we will have the final results by 20 April. Then someone, probably the Supreme Council Presidium, which will meet on 12 April, has to make a decision on the convocation of a new session, the first session of the newly-elected Supreme Council. The law says it should take place within two months of the election. Imagine, two months from 10 April is 10 June. I think it would be proper to act in accordance with the situation in society. This situation, I believe, requires the soonest possible convocation of the first session of the new parliament, and I think a decision will be made to convene it within a fortnight."

Considering the number of public holidays in early May, May Day, Orthodox Easter,and Victory Day, he suggests that the new parliament session should start around 12-15 May.

Omelchuk then asks what the parliament speaker believes the future status of the Ukrainian Republic will be—presidential, parliamentary, or a mixed one—and where he feels the parliament's preference lies.

Plyushch replies: "As a citizen and a deputy of the new parliament, but not more than that, I believe our Republic so far has been neither presidential, parliamentary, nor a mixed one. It has been too jumbled up. I don't want you to think I am blaming the Supreme Council, the president, the presidium or anyone else. This is the way that society has been. I think we did the right thing to introduce the presidency, and the fact that Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk was elected the first popular president was the best option, but then the president had to take over executive power and establish order. The law on local self-government that was adopted made it difficult because it did not allow him to directly control the regions. That's why the president wanted to set up vertical structures to implement legislation, and we passed the law on presidential representatives. Some would say it was redundant, but I don't think so."

Discussing further the problems of the power structure, Plyushch points out that, although necessary at the time, presidential representatives ran into conflict with the law on regional self-government and interfered with the powers of local councils. "We need a clear-cut system of executive and representative power in the regions, from the village to the oblast, before we deal with the Republic." To that effect, he says, the Supreme Council has passed three laws, on the formation of local bodies of power and self- government, on the status of local council deputies, and on local council elections. "What is taking place is a political reform through which the people, from the village to Kiev, will receive full power. The Republic's legislature plus local executive bodies will provide the people with full power. As for the president, he is already popularly elected."

Omelchuk then asks: "Some politicians believe that it is expedient to hold the election of the president of Ukraine after the new constitution of Ukraine is adopted. What is your opinion?"

Plyushch replies: "Well, first, there is nothing new about this view, you know. There is a variety of opinions, you know. Some believe that the fundamental law—the

Constitution—should be adopted first and then other laws should be adopted. This is the (?lawyers') opinion. There is another one affirming that it cannot be done.

"I say that it is good that there are opinions. We, however, have worked on all these opinions jointly with the president. You known that we have been working as cochairmen of the constitutional commission for two years. For the last two years now, we have been working as cochairmen and have been trying to do everything to bring about the Constitution as soon as possible. We submitted it for consideration in its first reading, however, and received 70,000 comments and proposals. How could we not discuss them? By the time we had systemized them, the Constitution looked entirely different. We published it for consideration in its second reading. Already we have received over 10,000 comments and proposals on the latest version that was published.

"That is why one cannot be in a hurry with the constitution and I believe that this Supreme Council's deputies did the right thing in that they initiated and worked up the draft and passed it to the next (?Supreme Council). That is, our constitution will already have been worked on by the Supreme Councils of two convocations. Otherwise, had it been adopted by that Supreme Council, people would have said it was adopted by the procommunist Supreme Council. Now, this will be a Supreme Council elected in the independent, democratic Ukraine and this Supreme Council will see whether it is expedient to present separate provisions in the constitution to a referendum. This will be decided by the Supreme Council.

"In other words, I am not a supporter of those linking the presidential election with the new Constitution."

The focus of the interview then switches to the economy. On the devaluation of the population's savings, Plyushch states: "Once we are delimiting functions, one should clearly realize that this devaluation was caused by the situation, rather than by the Supreme Council. I could not even say this was done by the government. Regardless of who did this, however, this is sheer robbery of the population of Ukraine by the power structures and by the existing situation." He continues: "The government must exclude from privatization and estimate that part of state property and means of production which are subject to privatization, so as to sell them and pay some money into people's savings accounts and index-link their deposits so that they will correspond with the purchasing power of the value of the money that was in their savings accounts on 1 January 1992 when we became a state."

Asked to say when the people's living standards are likely to improve tangibly, Plyushch responds: "I believe that the people will see an improvement in their economic well-being as the national economy rises, while the national economy is impossible to run without introducing national currency and regulating the financial and credit system."

He adds: "I believe the new Supreme Council will need a maximum of one month to form a new government and it will take the new government until the second half of this year to look round and present its stabilization program and a program which would provide for the introduction of our own currency. It is then that stabilization will be perceptible."

Omelchuk's next questions concern the situation in Ukraine's southern and eastern regions, following plebiscites in Crimea, Donetsk, and Lugansk on their status in Ukraine. Asked to comment on the legislative confrontation between Kiev and Crimea, Plyushch says: "Nobody can blame the Russian-speaking population in Crimea who came to live there and who now say that economic integration with Russia is the only way, and nobody can blame the 30 percent of Ukrainian speakers in Northern Crimea. President Boris Yeltsin and a Supreme Council delegation signed an interstate agreement on 16 November 1992, and a trilateral statement has been signed by presidents Kravchuk, Yeltsin, and Clinton recognizing the states' existing borders without any territorial claims. At the interstate level, Crimea is not an issue. It is an issue in Crimea itself, and among certain political forces in Russia. I believe that this issue will be resolved in Ukraine's favor only when Ukraine's national economy will be more helpful to Crimea's economy." Efforts have already been made to assist Crimea with the spring sowing campaign.

Plyushch continues: "The Crimean population can see it for themselves: If they do join Russia tomorrow, then what? Russia has its own problems. Even the famous ZIL, the Likhachev automobile plants, closed down yesterday. Will it come and open a plant in Crimea? Only Meshkov can think so, because he is promised financial aid from certain chauvinist forces if he rules the right way. We'll see in a year what kind of aid he gets. I would be only pleased if some kind of aid comes to Crimea from Russia, at least in the way of oil.

"How can we make Crimea comply with the law? Well, if someone does not comply with the law, than legal measures have to be taken. If the president of Ukraine has issued a decree and this decree is not obeyed, then the president's next step should contain measures against the one who did not obey."

Commenting on the issue of dual citizenship and two state languages, debated in east Ukraine, Plyushch says that a state cannot have two emblems, two citizenships and two languages. "This would only contribute to confrontation between our regions. If we continue with these referendums, then we will end up with one emblem in west Ukraine, another emblem in Lugansk, and what will the state emblem be in Kiev? Something else?

"People need a good life. If we had a good life, I am deeply convinced, there would be no questions about the

language, the emblems, and the citizenship. We have failed to provide this kind of life, and people feel uncertain."

Asked about the prospect of Ukraine joining the ruble zone in the CIS, Plyushch replies: "There will be no ruble zone ever again. Forget it. There are not enough rubles to go around in Russia. They promised to cook up a ruble zone for Belarus, six months have passed, and nothing has happening. If Belarus is part of the Russian banking system, Belarus will be a branch of the Russian Central Bank, but I don't think Belarus will agree to this. Maybe only certain forces in Belarus, but not the country on the whole, because that would be the end of a nation.

"But if you mean the single economic space, we never left it. Ukraine, thank God, already has a surplus of butter, meat, and other products. Why not sell them to Russia or Uzbekistan? They have to be paid for, but neither Ukraine nor Russia has the means to pay. And that's a different matter altogether."

In conclusion, Ivan Plyushch thanks Ukrainians for voting in the first round of elections and urges them to come to the polls to elect the rest of the parliament on 10 April for the sake of reform and stabilization.

Defense Minister's Planned Trip to Crimea Denied

LD0504162294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev 5 April, TASS—The press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry denied reports that Minister Vitalyy Radetskyy was to arrive in the Crimea today.

"Radetskyy is in Kiev now and planned no trips for today including to the Crimea," the press service told ITAR-TASS.

However the source has confirmed that a group of the Ukrainian top military consisiting of Intelligence Chief Vegunnikov, Airforce Commander Antonets, Chief of Staff of the National Guard Mokhov and Counterintelligence Chief Kravchenko has arrived in the Crimea today "separately and by different means of transport."

According to reliable sources in the Crimea, the aim of their visit to the Crimea was not immediately known either to the Crimean administration or the command of the Black Sea Fleet.

The arrival of high-ranking officers without preliminary notification, has evoked protest on the part of the Crimean leadership.

Security Chief Warns of Increase in Intelligence Operations

AU0504135494 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Special Services Have Not Lost Interest in the Dnieper Region"]

[Text] In a conversation with a UKRINFORM correspondent, the chief of Ukraine's Security Service Administration in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Lieutenant General Volodymyr Slobodenyuk, pointed to a considerable increase in interest that foreign special services are showing in the Dnieper region. Last year, officers of the administration kept under their control the unofficial presence in the region, under various covers, of more than 20 trained foreign intelligence agents. The counterintelligence department thwarted attempts to create two intelligence cells in the region, including one representing the interests of one of the Near Eastern countries. Hostile actions on the part of a number of European countries, the United States, and China were also uncovered, recorded, and discarded.

The interest on the part of foreign firms and informers on their payroll in the Dnieper region, where Ukraine's powerful scientific and industrial and defense potential is concentrated, is not accidental. Many unique technologies, designs, and samples of technology and materials that have not yet been used anywhere else in the world are being created there.

Belarus

UN Secretary General Arrives in Minsk on Official Visit

WS0504114994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] An hour ago, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali arrived in Minsk on an official visit. The honorable guest was met at the Minsk airport by Belarusian Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchanka; Alyaksandr Herasimenko, chairman of the Minsk City Council; UN Envoy to Belarus Matthew Kahane, and other officials.

Today in the evening at the House of External Economic Relations, the UN secretary general will hold talks with the foreign minister, and later he will meet with the CIS executive secretary. Butrus-Ghali is also expected to visit today the UN Mission to Belarus.

Meets Foreign Minister, CIS Officials

WS0504194394 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] At the House of External Economic Relations today, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali held talks with Belarusian Foreign Minister Krawchanka. In the course of these talks, various aspects of international life were discussed, as well as issues concerning Belarusian participation in the activities of this authoritative international organization. Given that the talks were held behind closed doors, I asked the officials for a short interview.

Could you brief us on the essence of your conversation?

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali, in English fading into Belarusian translation] We have had a very constructive and positive meeting with the Belarusian minister of foreign affairs. We discussed the activities of the United Nations, the disaster at Chernobyl, and the possible participation of Belarusian peacekeeping forces in various operations around the world. We will have a second round of discussions, during which we will continue with the agenda of different items agreed for the exchange of information.

[Krawchanka] I have presented [Butrus-Ghali] with two concrete drafts—not mere declarations, not just general words, but two documents. The first project, worth approximately $12 million, provides for radiological and ecological monitoring on Belarusian territory. We hope that the UN Headquarters will find funds for this endeavor. The other project, which is worth $8 million, is aimed at building a factory to produce ecological baby food for Chernobyl children. We take quite an active part in many international activities, and the arrival of Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is proof that the international community recognizes the complex problems facing our motherland. [end recording]

Later today, the UN general secretary held a meeting at the CIS Executive Secretariat. CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya expressed gratitude to Butrus-Ghali for finding time to visit the CIS Headquarters in Minsk. He thanked the guest for the resolution passed by a UN session and the UN Secretariat on granting the CIS observer status in the United Nations. This will undoubtedly increase the prestige of the CIS as a regional international organization. The executive secretary also briefed Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the structure of the coordinating bodies of the CIS, as well as their tasks and goals. These include the reduction of conflicts on CIS territory and multifarious activities in the sphere of economic integration.

Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, in his turn, pointed out that granting the CIS observer status in the United Nations is just the first step toward recognizing the CIS as an entity of international law. The United Nations is closely observing the activities of the CIS, and is interested in increasing the latter's peacekeeping and humanitarian role. According to Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN Secretariat is ready to closely cooperate with the executive bodies of the CIS in various spheres.

At the end of the first day of his visit, Butrus Butrus-Ghali visited the UN mission in Belarus. Incidentally, this is the first UN mission opened in a CIS state.

Hryb Says Lukashenka Levied Charges To Launch Campaign

WS0504132794 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 1 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb by ZVYAZDA correspondents Yan Kamotski and Natallya Talkanitsa, under the "Parliamentary Diary" rubric; place and date not given: "'Alyaksandr Lukashenka Began His Election Campaign'"]

[Text] As is known, on 31 April, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet did not adopt a resolution to dismiss four government members and the National Bank chairman, as was proposed by People's Deputy Lukashenka. ZVYAZDA correspondents have asked Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb to comment on the parliament's discussion of this issue.

[ZVYAZDA] How do you estimate the fact that the parliament has not adopted any resolution on proposals put forward by the commission headed by Alyaksandr Lukashenka?

[Hryb] I think that the reason for this was the lack of any documents which could substantiate charges against each of the individuals. In my opinion, it was necessary for people's deputies to have at their disposal both documented evidence and explanatory statements by the ministers. As became clear today, the commission has not spoken with any of them. It is impossible to adopt a resolution on the basis of such one-sided material.

[ZVYAZDA] Thus, you believe that the commission simply failed to convince people's deputies of the guilt of government members?

[Hryb] Absolutely. Even the opposition's representative, People's Deputy Malashka, said that he would like to see the government dismissed, but would not vote in favor of anyone's dismissal without having documented proof of their guilt.

[ZVYAZDA] Do you think Alyaksandr Lukashenka used this opportunity to begin his election campaign?

[Hryb] It is hard to say. He may be the best person to answer this question. However, judging by all appearances—yes, he has.

Movement Supports Kebich, Communist Secretary for President

WS0504140894 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Ernest Lebedin: "The Popular Movement of Belarus Supports Vyacheslaw Kebich"]

[Text] At its regular session, the coordinative committee of the Popular Movement of Belarus [NDB] entrusted its faction in the Supreme Soviet with the task of organizing the collection of signatures of people's deputies supporting Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich's bid for the presidency.

Participants in the session also discussed the proposal of the Communist Party of Belarus [PKB] to support the presidential candidacy of Vasil Novikaw, NDB cochairman and secretary of the PKB Central Committee. By a majority vote, participants in the session resolved to render assistance to an initiating group to collect signatures in support of V.N. Novikaw.

A final resolution on a single NDB-supported candidacy will be adopted during the NDB Second Congress.

Moldova

Premier Sangheli Announces New Cabinet Members

AU0504185394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Correspondent Cristian Nita report from Chisinau]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, I previously predicted that it was possible that today Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli would present the list of new government members; this has indeed happened.

In today's meeting of the Moldovan Parliament, after he had reviewed the activity of the old government, Prime Minister Sangheli presented the list that includes the names of the new executive members. This list includes 22 persons, compared with the 32 persons that formed the old government. Among the ministers who were kept in office are the following: Pavel Creanga, minister of national defense; Constantin Antoci, minister of interior; Vasile Calmoi, minister of state security; and Vitalie Gorincioi, minister of agriculture.

Among the new members of the government I will mention the following: Mihai Popov, minister of foreign affairs; Valeriu Chitan, minister of finance; Valeriu Bobutac, minister of national economy; Grigore Triboi, minister of industries; and Vasile Sturza, minister of justice.

I should also mention that the new governmental structure includes 17 ministries and eight state departments, compared to 20 ministries and 11 state departments in the old structure.

Talks on Russian Army Withdrawal Resume in Chisinau

LD0504124094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The eighth round of talks started in Chisinau Tuesday on the status and withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army. The previous round was held last November.

The Moldovan chief negotiator, ambassador to Moscow Anatol Taran, told Interfax that the deadline for the withdrawal of the Russian Army remained the only unresolved issue. In his words, "all other problems have been practically resolved" and the draft treaty "nearly ironed out."

"If this round of talks succeeded in determining the deadline for the withdrawal of the army, this would make a significant progress," Taran said. Thus far, he said, "the two sides hold their ground and it would be difficult to work out a compromise."

Taran also said that the two sides discussed the contribution Moldova could make to the housing of the army following its withdrawal. The Moldovan delegation agrees to raise the cash from two sources, selling the flats of leaving Russian officers and auctioning some of the army's realties.

Taran said that the Russian delegation wanted Kishinev [Chisinau] to add a third source, money from the Moldovan state budget. Moldova, permanently hard up, said it could not afford it.

Taran also said that his country had invited members of the CSCE permanent mission members in the Republic to be present at the talks as observers. The Russian negotiators did not think their presence essential and suggested that the mission could be informed on the results of the talks when they ended.

The two sides had agreed thus far that Transdniestria representatives would be present at the talks as observers.

14th Russian Army Officer Views Withdrawal Plans

LD0504190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 5 April, TASS—The 14th Russian Army withdrawal from Moldova before settlement of the Trans-Dniester problem may destabilize regional situation, deputy 14th Army commander for personnel Colonel Alexandr Baranov told ITAR-TASS today, commenting on the eighth round of negotiations on the 14th Army status and term of its Moldovan stay.

"The Russian military helped to stop the bloodshed inspired by extremist-minded politicians in summer 1992," said the colonel. "So, no matter what they say the 14th Army remains a stabilizing factor in the region and its presence cools hotheads on both banks of the Dniester River."

In the opinion of Baranov, the troops pullback in 1994, as it is suggested by the Moldovan side, is unreal. Re-location of the Army is difficult and costly. The more so, the trans-Dniester region is a native land of many officers, many of them have families, relatives and housing in the region.

"Hasty and poorly-considered decisions on the army pullback may result in undesirable consequences. I hope this is understood both in Moscow and Kishinev," stressed the colonel.

Kazakhstan

Provisions of Latest Land Ownership Decrees Summarized

PM0504131194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev: "Kazakhstani Peasant Could Become Owner. Sovkhoz Director Becomes Kulak Right Away"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Government documents aimed at implementing radical reform in Kazakhstan's agriculture were published in the Republic press in March. There are now distinct prospects that private owners could finally emerge in the agrarian sector.

The Cabinet of Ministers ratified the provisional statute on the sale of state agricultural enterprises into the private ownership of citizens (first phase). In accordance with this statute, labor collective members and persons retired on pension from a given enterprise and residing on its territory, as well as social sphere employees, have the right to buy out 49 percent of the redeemable part of the property subject to the property shares assigned to each.

An "outside" buyer—a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan having an agricultural education and a record of practical work in agriculture of not less than five years—can acquire 20 percent. He buys sovkhoz property at a closed commercial tender, paying in installments with a mandatory initial payment of not less than 31 percent of its cost. The remaining 31 percent of the state property is also transferred to the buyer, but for temporary use for a period of not more than five years. He can also receive for temporary use for a maximum of two years the remaining unsold part of the agricultural enterprise's state property.

The distribution of standard-size tracts of land (lots) is carried out according to the same procedure as governs the distribution of the property.

However, President N. Nazarbayev has issued a special edict allocating 10 percent of the redeemable part of sovkhoz property free of charge to a sovkhoz director who has worked in this post for not less than 20 years. The director can acquire a further 10 percent for temporary use for a period of up to five years. If the farm increases its efficiency and attains stable levels of agricultural production and improves its socioeconomic indicators, the director can acquire this share free of charge over the following five years. Thus the sovkhoz director becomes the biggest property owner: Only the remaining 80 percent of the redeemable part of the property will be distributed between labor collective members and "outside" buyers. Kolkhozes have been recommended to use this sovkhoz method.

Therefore, property owners could emerge in the Kazakhstani countryside in the near future, but, once again, not property owners in the full sense—no constitutionally enshrined institution of private ownership of land exists in Kazakhstan to this day. Land shares can be transferred to citizens only on long-term leases for a period of up to 99 years, with the right of inheritance.

Nuclear Plant Appeals to Nazarbayev, Yeltsin for Aid

LD0504110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondnet Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] 5 April, TASS—The personnel of the Mangyshlak nuclear plant (fast-neutron reactor) asked the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan for urgent aid as the plant is about to be stopped.

The open letter of the collective published by local press says that because of the blockage of payments between the two countries. The plant just as an energy complex of which it is part, cannot provide itself with nuclear fuel and reserves of technological equipment. The situation is aggravated by the fact that many workers and employees get a discharge and leave for Russia as civic, language and other problems of skilled personnel are not being solved.

Nuclear specialists believe that the stoppage of the plant threatens to paralyse enterprises of the eastern Caspian Basin. The supply to cities and villages of technical and drinking water received by desalination will be stopped. The very stoppage of the fast-neutron reactor can lead to unpredictable consequences. There are no effective projects for its stopage and conservation.

Kyrgyzstan

Emigration From Kyrgyzstan Up 60 Percent From 1992

PM0504150994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Ekmat Baybakpayev under the "Kirghizia" rubric: "What He Seeks in Distant Parts"]

[Text] According to the data of the Kirghiz [Kyrgyzstan] Committee for Statistics, approximately 144,000 people left the Republic last year. This was 60 percent more than the previous year.

More than 70 percent of those who left chose Russia as their permanent place of residence, while others emigrated to Ukraine, Belorusia [Belarus], Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Almost all the Germans left for Germany.

Today economic difficulties have been added to the problem of ignorance of the state language, which previously was the chief reason for migrating. The sharp drop in the volume of industrial production gives rise equally

quickly to a reduction in staff. As is known, the Russian-speaking part of the population forms up to 90 percent of working people in the Republic's industry.

The average wage in Russia, to where inhabitants of Kirghizia [kirgizy] mainly head, is four or five times higher than in the Republic. Let us add that the minimum consumer budget of one inhabitant of Russia amounts to one-third of the wages of the inhabitant of Kirghizia....

As a result of the activation of migration processes, the size of the Republic's population has fallen for the first time since the war....

Turkmenistan

Talks with Russia, Iran on Oil Pipeline

LD0504182694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by TURKMENPRESS-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[Text] Ashgabat 5 April, TASS—The government of Turkmenia [Turkmentistan] held bilateral talks with delegations of Iran and Russia in Ashgabat on Tuesday within the framework of the international consortium on transportation of Turkmen energy resources to the world market.

As a results of the talks two intergovernmental agreements were signed: The one with Iran—on the construction of an oil pipeline as far as Tehran which will ensure delivering 6 million tons of Turkmen oil to Iran, and the other with Russia—on cooperation in the development of fuel and power complexes.

"This document shows that Russia is interested in export of Turkmen oil and gas to the world market," Yuriy Shafranik, member of the interstate council of the consortium and minister of fuel and power engineering of Russia, told TURKMENPRESS.

"We will try to help Turkmenia by consulting and in the construction of the oil pipeline itself. The interaction in this direction will allow both states to cooperate on the European market in the future without infringing upon mutual interests. We will also back other routes of Turkmen energy resources," Yuriy Shafranik pointed out.

Gas Pipeline Agreement Signed With Turkey, Iran, Russia

TA0604072694 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] An agreement was signed in Ashgabat on the transportation of natural gas from Turkmenistan via pipeline through Iran and Turkey to Europe.

According to TRT correspondent Yavuz Kocak, the relevant ministers of the cosignatory countries attended a committee meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov. Representing Turkey at the committee was Energy and Natural Resources Minister Veysel Atasoy. The topics discussed and decisions made at the committee were later relayed to representatives of organizations and firms, which will undertake the project, during a consortium meeting chaired by Niyazov.

According to the agreement, which was signed among Turkey, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Russia, the section of the Turkmenistan-Europe natural gas pipeline extending up to the Turkish border will be undertaken by Iran. The section through Turkish territory will be constructed by Botas [Pipeline and Petroleum Transport Corporation] and the firms in the consortium. The construction of the Turkmenistan-Europe natural gas pipeline, which is expected to cost approximately $9 billion, will take five years.

Atasoy said that with the conclusion of this project and agreements to be reached with other countries, Turkey will be consuming 40 billion cubic meters of natural gas in the 2000's. Pointing out that efforts are under way to increase the natural gas imported from Russia, Atasoy said the following to TRT:

[Begin Atasoy recording] In addition to this, we want to purchase natural gas from Iran. We may receive natural gas from Iran in a short time. Negotiations to this effect will be conducted with the Iranian minister this afternoon. Moreover, the arrival of natural gas from Turkmenistan will take at least five years. This will enable us to supply our industrialists in Kayseri, Adana, and Icel with natural gas. With the realization of the projects on natural gas from three main sources, namely Turkmenistan, Iran, and Russia, we will have diversified our natural gas sources. This will allow Turkey to consume 40 billion cubic meters of natural gas in the 2000's. In other words, natural gas will occupy a more important place in our energy policy. A significant part of the power stations we are planning will consequently depend on natural gas. [end recording]

It was reported that this subject was discussed during the meeting held between Atasoy and Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i in Ashgabat this afternoon.

Armenia

CSCE Minsk Group Official Arrives in Karabakh

NC0504183294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan-Stepanakert, 5 APRIL (SNARK)—Ellen Djubua [name as received], French representative in the CSCE Minsk group arrived today in Stepanakert—capital of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

She met with Karen Baburyan, acting Chairman of the Karabakh Parliament, and Arkadiy Gukasyan, Karabakh Foreign Minister. They discussed questions connected with the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh problem.

French embassy in Yerevan told SNARK Ellen Djubua is also going to meet with Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan and other Armenian officials.

Minister Comments on Military Assemblies

NC0504152994 Yerevan SNARK in English 0848 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 5 (SNARK)—A three-month assembly (the second one in this year) started in Armenia. It is supposed to involve the medium-rank staff of the Ministries and State Departments. This is the assertion of the Armenian State Minister for Defence Vazgen Sargisyan. Speaking on television he declared that such assemblies will be carried out constantly from now on, and all the Armenian citizens liable for call-up will take part in them.

The State Minister confirmed that after a short military training the participants of the assembly are usually sent to the Armenian- Azerbaijani frontier. However, they serve not at the front line, but in rearguard.

Gevorg Gazinyan Appointed Ambassador to Romania

NC0504152394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] With a decree signed by the president today, Gevorg Gazinyan has been appointed the Armenian Republic's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Romania.

Prospect of Reopening Armenian AES Viewed

PM0504132794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 3

[Valeriy Aydinyan report: "Armenian Nuclear Power Station: What's Going on in and Around It?"]

[Excerpts] Yerevan—The agreement signed between the Russian and Armenian Governments on the demothballing and industrial utilization of the Armenian nuclear power station [AES] remains one of the most important events of recent times. The AES' significance in the republic's life is so great that the agreement has both political and even psychological and moral repercussions. It will be a while—at least a year—before the power station comes on stream, but this represents both a real deadline and a real hope, which will make it possible to withstand yet another dark and cold blockade winter. [passage omitted]

A visiting session of the republic government was held at the Armenian AES recently. Opening it, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan spoke highly of the agreement signed by the Russian Federation Government. The political and technical problems have been solved, he said. Work is now underway on settling the financial problems. After demothballing, the power station will be producing 400 megawatts of electricity, which will make it possible to meet the republic's minimum requirements and escape the damage caused by the blockade. The Sevan River, whose water resources are currently being overexploited, will be saved from silting up.

As for the power station's safety, this is one of the main points of the Russian-Armenian agreement. Furthermore, for months now a group of experts representing various countries and international organizations has been studying the situation at the AES. They also think that the station can be commissioned if a number of measures are taken. The president described the opening of the station as a priority task, and the decisions which have been adopted show that these are not just words—the government is serious about this.

In order to insure an inflow of skilled personnel, wages 20 times above the minimum wage in the republic are being set for the power station's workers. This is much more than the highest-ranking state officials get. Provision has been made for large sums to provide free food for the workers. Repairs to the AES' rest home will be completed this year.

So the first steps have been taken. Yet reactions to the demothballing of the AES have been far from unequivocal. The United States makes no secret of its negative attitude, and Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are sharply opposed to the nuclear power station resuming operation. But for all this Turkey and Azerbaijan are not prepared to lift the blockade, and Georgia is still incapable of ensuring the protection of the gas pipeline and the railroad. Admittedly the United States has allocated in the form of aid a large consignment of kerosene, which is being distributed among the socially vulnerable strata of the population. But this humane act cannot influence the situation in the economy. Neighbors' views have to be taken into account as far as possible, of course. But this desire must be mutual. Moreover, some countries' attitude betrays not so much ecological worries as concern of a strictly political nature.

The Armenian and Russian sides spent a long time working on the draft and, one assumes, also gave careful consideration to the possible international reaction to

the opening of the AES. And there is one other curious detail. Commenting on the agreement, observers—manifestly without collusion—have concluded that Russia is coming back. This sounds somewhat strange, particularly in Armenia, which Russia has never seriously left. Its troops are stationed here and its border guards protect the border. Not so long ago a document was signed under which there will be twice-yearly drafts in Armenia of young people for service in the Russian Border Troops. The whole point, probably, is that the troops can be moved in or out in a short space of time. But the demothballing and joint operation of the AES is a matter calculated for decades ahead, and the agreement once again confirms the seriousness of Russia's intentions. At the time, the closure of the AES coincided with the start of destructive processes in the economy. Might its demothballing mark the beginning of the restoration of destroyed ties, of a destroyed economy? It would be nice to believe so.

Azerbaijan

Russia's Kazimirov Arrives in Baku 5 Apr

NC0504181594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's ambassador on special missions, arrived in Baku today. Afiaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, welcomed him at Bina Airport.

Foreign Minister To Begin Visit to Egypt

NC0504131594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Under the former regime there were defects in our Republic's foreign policy and our country faced a number of problems because a balanced policy was not developed on relations with neighboring and far away countries. After Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev came to power, concrete steps were taken to forge good relations with the most developed countries, particularly neighboring states.

As a result, now Azerbaijan's just voice is being heard more clearly in the world and foreign countries are taking reciprocal steps to establish bilateral and multilateral ties with our Republic.

A number of countries are closely following the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and are condemning the forced occupation of Azerbaijani territory, calling for the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupationist forces.

Egypt is one of these friendly countries.

Recently, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak invited the Azerbaijani president to visit his country whenever convenient.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov is leaving for Egypt today at the invitation of the Egyptian foreign minister. The purpose of the visit is to broaden the ties between the foreign ministries of the two countries and to examine the possibilities of formalizing relations.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Akif Mecidoglu] Honorable minister, what is Egypt's place in the foreign policy of the newly independent Azerbaijan?

[Gasanov] Egypt is one of the states that first recognized Azerbaijan. A large Egyptian delegation arrived here soon after Azerbaijan gained its independence. All this time, Egypt was one of those states that supported and showed an interest in Azerbaijan. This is not our first visit there; The Azerbaijani foreign minister paid a visit to Egypt during which a number of agreements were concluded. It is believed that there is a need for this visit to reconfirm and ensure the continuation of these agreements.

Egypt also very firmly supports Azerbaijan at the United Nations in a number of areas and once issued important statements on the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict. All this shows that this visit will be the logical conclusion to these efforts.

Our aim is to define clear lines in Azerbaijani foreign policy, such as the one on members of the UN Security Council, CIS countries, and European states. This is a new line being forged: Azerbaijan's policy towards Arab states, or Islamic states. We will hold very serious talks there and exchange views. Husni Mubarak invited Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev to pay a visit to Egypt in the near future. Mubarak's letter was made public. During my talks we will also prepare the groundwork regarding which problems to discuss during Aliyev's visit to Egypt and in what (?ways) to further our relations.

[Mecidoglu] I wish you success.

[Gasanov] Thank you.

Restarting Armenian Nuclear Plant Worries Baku

LD0504191594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1853 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By AZERTAC correspondent Djamilya Kuliyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 5 TASS—Participants in the press conference called today in the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (ASA) described the forthcoming restarting of the Metsamor nuclear power plant as an ill-considered step which will threaten hundreds of thousands of people with radioactive contamination.

ASA President Eldar Salayev and Chairman of the Republic's State Environmental Committee Arif Mansurov, who signed a petition to this effect to the U.N.O., all international organizations, ecologists of contiguous states and foreign embassies in Azerbaijan, said that a

request to protect the region from the danger of radioactivity is also contained in resolutions adopted at more than 30 meetings held in Azerbaijan. Participants in the meetings also regard this step as a method of exerting political pressure on Azerbaijan.

According to Eldar Salayev, Armenia's location in a seismologically dangerous zone and the lack of conditions for burying radioactive waste within its territory will be conducive to accidents at the plant, which has been constructed according to an out-of-date design. Contamination of such unique reservoires as the Caspian Sea by waters of rivers flowing through Armenia can also prove fatal for human beings, he said.

The ASA president recalled that representatives of Turkey and Georgia had also expressed their negative views at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held last year, when the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was openly prepared to finance the repair of the nuclear power plant. At that time scientists of Armenia, who also spoke of the impossibility of restarting the nuclear power plant, had put forward similar arguments after the earthquake in Spitak in 1988, he said.

Further Details of Opposition

NC0504204594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Academy of Sciences held a joint press conference today. Our colleague Menzere Sadiqova reports:

[Begin recording] [Sadiqova] At the very time when the ecological (?balance) has alrcady been gravely disrupted, no state can remain indifferent to an attempt by a neighboring country to use nuclear power. Therefore, the agreement signed between Armenia and Russia on the reopening of the Metsamor nuclear power plant has raised serious concerns. The reopening of the nuclear plant, which poses a danger not only to the Caucasus but also to all Caspian Sea countries and which was built to operate for a limited duration, will cause radioactive waste to travel through Azerbaijan and then to the Caspian Sea via rivers. The reopening of this plant, which was planned to withstand a seven-point earthquake on the Richter Scale but is located in a seismic region susceptible to 9-point earthquakes, might amplify the tectonic processes in the Caspian Sea and cause yet another Chernobyl tragedy at the very time when the level of the Caspian Sea is rising.

Arif Mansurov, chairman of the Azerbaijan State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, provided detailed information on these issues during the news conference. He assessed this decision by Armenia and Russia as a lever for political pressure.

In his statement, Academician Eldar Balayev, president of the republic's Academy of Sciences, said that the Metsamor nuclear plant generates more than 14,000 waste [measurement not specified] each year and added that there are many Armenian nuclear experts working in various nuclear centers; the reopening of this plant might enable them to gather in Metsamor in the future and allow them to make use of atomic power for non-peaceful purposes.

The news conference was held in Russian and English because foreign reporters were also taking part.

We are currently in a state of war with Armenia. Do you think that by reopening the nuclear plant they could make use of it for military purposes?

[Mansurov] At present, Armenian politicians are in a bind and could resort to anything. They could also make use of the waste from the nuclear power plant. [end recording]

Aliyev Signs Decree Liberalizing Foreign Trade

NC0504194994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev issued a decree on Liberalization of Foreign Trade in the Azerbaijan Republic in order to achieve a turning point in the development of the national economy on the basis of the broad application of market mechanisms, expand mutually advantageous trade and economic ties with foreign countries and firms, ensure the further deepening of economic reforms, increase productivity in foreign trade and economic ties, improve the export mechanism, and liberalize the activities of firms engaged in exports and stimulate their interest in accruing foreign currency reserves for the republic and boosting exports.

Election of Nakhichevan Chairman Protested

NC0504204694 Baku TURAN in English 1554 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 5) TURAN—"The results and decision of the session of Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, held on 1 April are illegal"—stated the deputies from democratic bloc of Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis.

In a statement signed by 27 deputies is said, that "under the pressure of Chairman of Supreme Majlis of Azerbaijan, first Deputy Chairman of Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis R. Gasanov and special subdivisions of police the election of Chairman was held without alternative candidate, by open voting, that is violation of regulations".

"As soon as 27 deputies from democratic bloc left the session in protest on it the meeting of session was held without quorum"—is emphasized in a statement.

Opposition Newspaper Banned

NC0504202494 Baku TURAN in English 1554 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 5) TURAN—Today the "Azadlyg" newspaper's readers again could not buy this most oppositional paper. Bahaddin Gaziyev, the sub-editor of "Azadlyg" newspaper told Turan agency that the "Azerbaijan" publishing house, in which "Azadlyg" newspaper is published, once more banned to publish the newspaper due to the technical difficulties. According to the sub-editor of the newspaper, this it is the tenth time in the year when the authorities prevent the publishment of the newspaper.

Russian Oil Company To Develop Offshore Oil Field

NC0504201594 Baku TURAN in English 1554 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 5) TURAN—The Russian oil company Lukoil intends to develop the Caspian offshore oil-field "Kyapaz".

State Oil Company of Azerbaijan [SOCAR] told Turan that Lukoil intends to develop this oil-field either in the framework of the consortium of western oil companies or independently.

In exchange of that the Russian company is ready to give up its share in the consortium or to refuse its participation in the development of "Azeri" and "Chirag" oil-fields together with western companies.

In March 1994 Lukoil and SOCAR signed the agreement. Under the agreement, the Russian company has to get the share of 10 per cent from the participation in the consortium of western oil companies. Lukoil has to get one third of Azeri oil explored from two oil-fields. That time, official Baku did not conceal that this agreement signed with Russian oil company is of political character. "Kyapaz" offshore oil-field located 135-140 km to the coast, close to Guneshli oil-field. Its reserves total 25 million tons of oil. Local geologists drilled three wells on "Kyapaz". Two of them are gas-bearing and one is oil-bearing one. According to SOCAR's specialists, geological researches presently conducted are not sufficient to estimate reserves of this oil-field exactly.

Georgia

Parliament Debates Moscow Documents on Conflict

LD0504184394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1435 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The Georgian Parliament today debated yesterday's signing in Moscow of a package of Georgian-Abkhaz documents on a peaceful settlement to the conflict. During the debate, radically different opinions were expressed about a number of clauses in the agreement, including those depriving the refugees who fought against Abkhazia—and who are at present members of armed units ready to enter its territory—of their rights to be repatriated.

Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili, and former deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, gave a sharply negative assessment of the documents signed in Moscow, and stressed that they deprive thousands of deported Georgians who had fought for the territorial integrity of their country of the right to return to their homeland. Tamaz Nadareishvili proposed three acceptable ways to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, one of which envisages an armed solution of the problem. Nadareishvili is convinced that the two other ways, which are based on peaceful, political principles, will not be accepted by the Gudauta government, which readily disregards with impunity any peace agreement.

Nodar Natadze, the leader of the People's Front of Georgia, and a member of parliament, described the documents signed in Moscow as Georgia's "unconditional surrender" to the separatists. He noted that such a "sacrifice" is totally unjustified, since it did not serve any long-term aims favorable for Georgia.

Irina Sarishvili, a leader of the National Democratic Party of Georgia, in her assessment of the signing of the Georgian-Abkhaz documents in Moscow, said that in their most important part concerning the return of refugees, the documents are a "political and psychological warning" to the Georgian population of Abkhazia, depriving them of the right to express any protest or disagreement with the activities of the Gudauta clique. Irina Sarishvili expressed the opinion that if, under the agreement, a "battle-worthy" population returns to Abkhazia, it will be crushed there. Georgians who are not "battle worthy" will "reregistered as Abkhazians," thereby increasing the number of votes which Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba needs to hold a referendum on Abkhazia's secession from Georgia.

The debate on the issue of Abkhazia continued at the evening session of parliament.

Envoy Previews Peace Talks

LD0504172094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The peace agreement that Georgia and Abkhazia signed in Moscow on April 4 can be used as the basis for sending U.N. peacekeepers to the region, Georgian envoy Aleksandr Kavsadze believes. The agreement provides for the return of Georgian refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Abkhazia.

Speaking at the Georgian Embassy in Moscow on Tuesday, Kavsadze said the two sides had agreed on further measures aimed at bringing a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

The four party commission (Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia and the U.N.) is to hold its first session to discuss the refugee issue in Sochi on April 8, Kavsadze said.

The negotiators are expected to decide on whether to send peacekeepers to the region at the next round in Geneva on April 12.

The future of Abkhazia will be the subject of discussion in Geneva on April 19. International lawyers will also attend.

'Compromise and Concessions' Yield Accords

PM0504122594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Russia Takes On Mission as Chief Peacemaker in Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict"]

[Text] Two Georgian-Abkhazian agreements have been signed in Moscow, inspiring hope of the long-awaited end to the conflict.

Russia's peacemaking role in securing these accords has received an unequivocally high rating. Moscow is still pressing for the UN Security Council to confer on Russia the status of international peacemaker. Butrus Butrus-Ghali seems not to be opposed to this. He cautiously confirmed that possibility. But only in theory, in other words if multilateral forces are sent to Abkhazia at any time and the Russian Army might be involved in these forces and total 20-30 percent of the entire contingent. At the same time Butrus-Ghali agreed that Moscow is the most feasible force capable of influencing policy in the "nearby foreign countries" and it holds the keys to a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Therefore the prospects of Russian citizens trying UN blue helmets for size in the immediate future are hardly brilliant. Experiencing financial difficulties as it is, the world community is simply unwilling to literally pay for peace in the former Soviet empire. Russia will obviously have to perform this mission itself in one way or another. It is no coincidence that Eduard Shevardnadze, who pinned so many hopes on UN forces and observers, described their activity as passive and futile when there was fighting under way in Abkhazia last week and people were dying.

The first document pertaining to a settlement in Abkhazia constitutes pledges on a cease-fire and refraining from using force. The second represents the terms for the return to Abkhazia of over 200,000 refugees who have gathered on the Georgian bank of the Inguri River. The signing ceremony was attended by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, his personal representative Eduard Brunner [name as transliterated], and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Such lofty patronage ruled out any possibility of either side pulling out at the last minute as has happened repeatedly, and at the same time creates guarantees for the implementation of the accords.

In an interview with IZVESTIYA, Eduard Brunner particularly noted the peacemaking efforts made by Russian diplomacy, thanks to which, he said, a major step has been taken toward solving a very complex situation in one of the regions of the Caucasus.

The Moscow agreements were largely the result of compromise and concessions on Tbilisi's part. They resolve current problems and lay the foundation for talks on the main issue—the political status of Abkhazia. Georgia lost the political initiative with its edict dissolving the parliament in Sukhumi. During recent combat operations it suffered another defeat. And now Tbilisi has been forced to accept the kind of wordings that it refused to hear of previously.

So, for the first time, the agreements do not mention Georgian territorial integrity—a fundamental principle at all the previous talks. Russia and the United Nations nevertheless underline their commitment to this principle. Andrey Kozyrev once again confirmed that Russian foreign policy is still based on recognition of Georgia as a unified state.

Tbilisi has also renounced its previous demand for all refugees without exception to return freely. This agreement does admittedly stipulate terms for admitting those who have laid down their arms and have promised not to take them up again, even if they fought on Georgia's side. Only those formations and field commanders that are continuing the war are barred from crossing the Inguri River. Presumably, the repatriation mechanism will be finalized still further with the participation of UN observers at local level and the Russian military. A schedule has not yet been drawn up. The international commission for refugees is to convene in Sochi. Then there will be peacekeeping forces on the banks of the Inguri River. The operation is expected to begin within the next few days in order to give people a chance to carry out spring field work. In the prevailing situation battalions of the Russian Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus are the main guarantor of stability.

Georgian, Abkhaz Officials Comment

NC0504184494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 5 (SNARK)—"The quadripartite agreement, signed in Moscow between Georgia and Abkhazia with the participation of the UN and Russia, promises swift entrance of the peacemaking forces into the conflict's zone and refuges' return to their places". Lorik Marshania, First Vice Prime [Minister] of Abkhazia informed of it SNARK today.

He said peace in Abkhazia will set in only provided with unreserved execution of the reached agreement by the sides.

Georgian Vice Prime [Minister] Tamaz Nadareishvili is of the same opinion. He told SNARK the agreement gives a good opportunity for 250 thousand refuges to return to their places.

Meanwhile, a radical Georgian deputy Boris Kukubava consider the signed agreement to be an adroit using of the international authority of "capitulator" Shevardnadze to acknowledge de-facto Abkhazian state.

Opposition Dissatisfied With Documents

LD0504132494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Georgian parliament continued on April 5 debating the documents on a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Abkhazia signed earlier in Moscow.

Just like at the closed session on Monday, a large group was formed of those deputies who oppose the documents. For example, Nodar Natadze, leader of the Georgian People's Front, accused the parliamentary majority backing Eduard Shevardnadze of betraying the national interests. The opposition suggested debating the issue on the powers of the Georgian delegation currently staying in Moscow. The Abkhaz deputies in the Georgian parliament opposed the documents.

Leader of the parliamentary faction called The National Democrats, Irina Sarishvili, told Interfax that the signed documents are "humiliating for Georgia." She believes they mean for Georgia the loss of Abkhazia.

Sarishvili said it appears that the Georgians who fought for their land in Abkhazia were posed as aggressors, while the Abkhaz as fighters for the freedom of their Motherland.

UN Observers' Presence in Abkhazia Termed 'Futile'

PM0504133994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report under the "Former Soviet Union" rubric: "Shevardnadze Complains about United Nations and South Ossetia"]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has criticized the way UN observers are performing their mission in Abkhazia in connection with events there. The observers' presence there, he remarked, is futile because, when the new stage of confrontation began, they not only failed to raise their voice over the escalation of the conflict but did not even issue a statement in response to it. According to Shevardnadze, no peace will be achieved in Abkhazia unless there is real Russian support in securing a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

This most acute headache suffered by the Georgian president has been augmented by yet another: Elections to the representative organ of South Ossetia—the State Assembly—have been held. According to provisional figures, there was a 70-percent turnout; 21 of the 36 seats have been taken, 17 of them by Communist Party deputies. Fifteen candidates, including current State Assembly Chairman Lyudvig Chibirov, will take part in repeat elections on 10 April, as they failed to win the requisite number of votes.

Official Tbilisi has reacted to the holding of these elections in a sharly negative way, regarding them as unlawful. The South Ossetian autonomous formation was abolished by the Georgian Supreme Council back in December 1990, in the wake of which ethnic conflict broke out in the region.

Commenting on the elections, Vazha Khachapuridze, chief state counsellor-coordinator for the leader of Georgia on questions of defense and national security, stated that they are an unlawful attempt to detach Shida Kartli—as the Georgian side calls this region—from the Republic of Georgia.

Estonia

Reports of Radiation Leak at Paldiski Dismissed

WS0504150494 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 05, BNS—Estonian officials dismissed rumors today about a radiation leak having taken place at the Russian base of Paldiski, where Russia is scheduled soon to start dismantling two nuclear reactors in its former submarine crew training facility.

The rumors were spread after a Russian-language radio station aired reports of an accident at the reactor facility today.

Estonian Rescue Department officials were dispatched to the site to check the radiation level around the base. Radiation near the reactor building was no higher that the background of the previous days and is lower than the maximum allowed by the norms, said Juri Tikk, the Estonian Government's representative at Paldiski. Also Estonian police who observed the site found no signs of a possible nuclear accident, Tikk added.

"I'm absolutely sure everything is all right at Paldiski," he said.

Tikk said rumors had spread in the morning of a black cloud forming above the reactor building. He said the rumor had been taken so seriously in some places that people were ready to start evacuation of schools and kindergartens.

"I suppose the rumors may have arisen from earlier suppositions by some Estonian officials that the taking out of nuclear fuel from the reactors is going to start on Apr. 5," Tikk said.

Estonian authorities are now trying to find out who started the rumors.

Also in Paldiski, rumors spread late last month about Estonian authorities registering the residents in the town in preparation of a massive deportation.

Ministry Official Deems Withdrawal Pact 'Ripe'

WS0504152494 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, Apr 05, BNS—Estonia is ready to initial the draft agreement with Russia on troop withdrawal, said Raul Malk, deputy chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

He said Estonia's position is that the document is "ripe enough" for signature.

Malk said Estonia now also had more grounds to expect that Russian troops will be pulled out from the country by Aug. 31, 1994. "It seems to me that after the past round of talks at Lohusalu the Russian side is more definitely expressing the final deadline for the withdrawal as Aug. 31," the Estonian diplomat said.

Russia, however, insists that the troop withdrawal agreement must be initialed together with an agreement on social guarantees for its retired officers living in Estonia, similar with the document initialed between Russia and Latvia.

The head of the Russian delegation, Vasiliy Svirin, in an interview with BNS ahead of the talks said that if no agreement on the retired military is signed, the deadline of Aug. 31 will lose its actuality and the withdrawal will continue under a timetable to be determined unilaterally by Russia.

Malk in his far more optimistic remarks said that Moscow authorities recently had taken a more clearly defined stance in their assessment of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact era.

Attempts are in evidence, however, he said, not to acknowledge the legal aspects of how Estonia became a part of the Soviet Union. Therefore, if Russia wishes to become a full member of the Council of Europe, she ought to read the rulings of this European body on the topic of Estonia's annexation into the Soviet Union. He said these rulings contained clear formulations which Estonia's position on the issue was based upon.

Speaking about the border dispute, Malk said work on the issue was currently in a stage of a very difficult exchanging of opinions. He added that he saw the solution for the problem as also an "optimistic" one.

Laar: No Change in Position on Troop Withdrawal

WS0604095994 Tallinn ETA in English 1001 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Foreign Ministry Press Release" from 6 April EESTI SENUMID, PAEVALEHT, POSTIMEES, p.1; "News Bulletin" No. 65/94]

[Text] Estonia has not changed its positions concerning the retired Russian military and the troops withdrawal, Prime Minister Mart Laar told the news conference yesterday. Laar hoped that Russia will assume constructive views and claimed to rely on the Russian leaders' common sense. "Russia is the only country whose interests are harmed by the continued troops presence in Estonia," he explained.

Foreign Ministry vice-chancellor Raul Malk announced that Estonia is ready to initial the troops withdrawal agreement and claimed that the Russian troops will leave by August 31. He also pointed out that Russia's views on the Hitler-Stalin pact had been clarified lately, although differences concerning the legal aspects of Estonia's annexation still exist.

However, head of the Russian delegation Vasily Svirin declared in Moscow that the August 31 troop withdrawal deadline will be "no longer current" if an agreement on "social guarantees" to the retired military will not be signed.

A Foreign Ministry press release of Tuesday, April 5, announced that Russia had linked the troops withdrawal date with two additional conditions. Amendments to Estonian legislation were still demanded, as well as the granting of automatic residence permits to all retired or reserve officers, regardless of the legality of their residence. The

demands for the 23 million dollars to construct housing for the officers being withdrawn were also reiterated.

Laar Warns Russia Over Troops, Council of Europe

LD0504173194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has told INTERFAX that his country will block Russia's full membership in the Council of Europe. In connection with the current Helsinki seminar of the council on preparing new members which is attended by a group of Russian deputies Laar said "the strong interest of our neighbor in the East in membership can be viewed from a positive angle."

However, the prime-minister said, the organization is opposed to the presence of foreign troops on the territory of a country without consent. "Consequently, before becoming a full member of the Council of Europe Russia should pull out its troops," Laar said.

"If any European country wishes to revise the provision, the Estonian delegation will be consistent on this question," he added.

The question of admitting new members to the council is decided on the basis of consensus.

Further Details of Laar's Comments

WS0504192694 Tallinn ETA in English 1713 GMT 5 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 5—Russia cannot become member of the Council of Europe unless it pulls its forces out of the Baltic countries, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar told a news conference on Tuesday [5 April].

Laar said that Russian MPs have been very active at a parliamentary seminar in Helsinki on Russia's chances of becoming a member of the Council which "demonstrates extraordinary interest in obtaining the status of full member", Laar said.

"Such interest is very positive from our standpoint as the Council of Europe has unanimously accepted an attitude that Russia cannot become a full member before its troops are withdrawn from the Baltic states completely and without conditions," Laar stressed. He also added that even if a member country should make any amendments to the stipulation, Estonia would not change its views.

"It has been clearly said in the Council of Europe that as long as Russia continues talking about seizing other countries and pursues the near-abroad policy, Russia's becoming a member of the Council is hopeless," Laar said while adding that as any decision needs to be passed under consensus, "even one is a soldier on the battlefield".

Only today, the Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who is a member of the Russian delegation said that Estonia would soon be reabsorbed by Russia, REUTERS reported from Helsinki.

Former Minister: Military Conversion 'Propaganda Move'

WS0604095894 Tallinn ETA in English 1001 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From 6 April EESTI SENUMID, p. 3 ; "News Bulletin" No. 65/94]

[Text] Hain Rebas, former defence minister, held a lecture in Tallinn yesterday on the influence of the military-industrial complex on the Russian home and foreign policy.

Rebas announced that he had started to gather information on the subject after resigning from the minister's post. The conversion of the military industry in Russia has never been more than a propaganda move, he claimed, adding that modern weaponry is constantly being produced in addition to existing stockpiles or armament. The military industry has suffered relatively less from the industrial decline than the non-military production, Rebas told the audience and added that the development and production of biological and chemical weapons is going on, despite high-level denials.

The ex-minister stressed the influence of the military-industrial complex on the Russian politics, mentioning the organisations joining the defence industry, their representatives in the government circles and in the parliament. Russia has given priority to the military industry and adopted expansionist foreign policy, Rebas said. He warned that the people in Russia are willing to adopt aggressive ideas and stressed the need to explain the situation more efficiently in the Western countries.

Foreign Minister Departs for EU, NATO Talks

WS0504152694 Tallinn BNS in English 1102 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 05, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik flew to Brussels for two days of meetings with EU [European Union] and NATO officials, the Foreign Ministry press office reported.

Luik is scheduled to meet the secretary general of the West European Union, Willem von Eekelen, NATO's Deputy Secretary General Sergio Balanzino, European Commission's Vice President Sir Leon Brittan, and members of the committee for foreign relations and security of the European Union.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include Estonia's contacts with the European Union, the West European Union and NATO, as well as issues of the Estonian-Russian talks and the situation in Russia.

Also to be discussed are some aspects of the free trade talks between the Baltics and the European Union, issues of security.

Official: Free Trade Pact Implemented Smoothly

WS0504193194 Tallinn ETA in English 1713 GMT 5 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 5—Free trade agreement between the Baltic countries that took effect on April 1 has been implemented without any obstacles, Signe Ratso, the head of the Estonian Economic Ministry's foreign trade department told ETA.

Aimi Pihel from the National Customs Board also assured everything was proceeding smoothly.

The agreement covers industrial products while negotiations on agricultural produce are under way.

Estonia exports its to Latvia and Lithuania without tariffs. Certificates of origin are issued by the Customs Board.

Agriculture Chiefs View 'Discriminatory' Tariffs

WS0504200994 Tallinn ETA in English 1838 GMT 5 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 5—After a meeting of Estonian agricultural leaders on Tuesday [5 April] at the Ministry of Agriculture on export and import of food products, the spokesman of the Ministry Valdur Telliskivi told ETA that Russia's "discriminatory tariffs policy towards Baltics" has lead to tensions, considerably decreasing the export of food products to Russia.

Telliskivi added that if in February Russia's part of Estonia's export of food products had constituted about a half, increase in tariffs for about a half made it economically senseless to export food products to Russia.

Minister of Agriculture Jaan Leetsar, however, said that when Russia raised tariffs, it was not an economic war against Baltics but a Russian "domestic problem", adding that the Russian new parliament was strongly influenced by agricultural leaders that aimed at protecting domestic producers and reducing profits made by the mediators.

Leetsar has been continuously advocating protection of domestic producers, saying that otherwise the Estonian agricultural producers, who are in great economic difficulties, would not survive the pressure of cheap subsidized food products from foreign countries.

New tariffs were applied by the State Customs Office of the Russian Federation on March 15 to all states that do not have most favoured nations status agreements with Russia, thus causing the Baltic states, that do not have such an agreement, to pay twice as high tariffs as the rest of Europe. Tariffs on export of Russian goods were not raised.

Leetsar said that a way out of the situation was for Estonian farmers and agricultural producers to form export associations, that would coordinate the export activities. Director of Tallinn Meat Factory Lembit Kivisild said, however, that the farmers and producers had so many other problems that it was too early to found such organisations.

Israeli, Russian 'Plot' Behind Arms Deal

WS0504152994 Tallinn BNS in English 1102 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Unattributed report: "Opposition Politician Fears Plot Between Russia and Israel Behind Estonia's Arms Purchase From Israel"]

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 05, BNS—Purchasing of arms from Israel has caused Estonia major foreign political difficulties because a collusion between Israel and Russia lies behind the deal, says Estonia's opposition politician Hardo Aasmae.

"When the secret arms deal was enacted, our friends in the West were interested that Estonia's governing circles wouldn't completely fall through this into the Israeli-Russian sphere of influence. Therefore also many secret services started trying to find out who and how much earned from that deal at (the government residence of) Toompea," Aasmae said.

He said Israel and Russia were not interested in the success of Estonia's foreign policy, since the principles that the Baltic country's foreign policy is based upon may negatively affect the interests of Russia and Israel. In Aasmae's words Israel had also gained a certain lead on the weapons market before the Western countries, especially the United States, who only recently lifted its arms sales embargo on the Baltics and three Balkan states.

"There have also been reports that Russian banks are buying up the bills of exchange issued by the Estonian side to cover the cost of the arms deal, and which Russia can use as an argument against Estonia at the talks," the Estonian opposition politician said.

Aasmae said both Russia and Israel are likely to have certain common interests on the international arena in prospect, because also Israel will have to start defending the interests of its settlers in its so-called near abroad, in view of the possibility that Palestine may gain its independence.

Aasmae also pointed out common features in the development of the town of Sillamae in Estonia and the Israeli settlements on the occupied territories.

Taking into account the whole background of the arms deal, we can state that this became the nail in the coffin of the Estonian foreign policy, he said.

The Estonian Government signed the 60 million U.S. dollar arms deal with TAAS Israel Industries Ltd. on Jan. 7, 1993.

Bank Predicts Higher Than Expected Revenues

WS0504152894 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 05, BNS—The Bank of Estonia predicts that earnings into the state budget for the first half of this year may well exceed the original estimates by as much as 160-180 million kroons.

The more-than-predicted income may even exceed 200 million kroons if earnings from the corporate income tax and profits from state-owned companies reach the original estimates, the macroeconomics department at the Estonian central bank says.

The central bank says, however, that the total balance depends on the discipline of taxpayers and on the work of the tax department.

The report says a higher than predicted earnings level in all sections of the state budget will become a reality only if taxpayers attach equal importance to all their obligations. It cannot be ruled out that money will be lacking in some regions because of big regional differences in the payroll fund.

The higher than expected budgetary income is expected to have a big positive effect so that Estonia could be able to start paying higher pensions without the introduction of additional taxes.

The government departments directly involved in distributing budget funds have called increasing the pensions at the current tax burden level a too risky step.

Former Government Holds News Conference 4 Apr

WS0504114794 Tallinn ETA in English 0659 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From 5 April EESTI SENUMID, HOMMIKULEHT, pp. 1,3 ; "News Bulletin" No. 64/94]

[Text] Members of Edgar Savisaar's cabinet met in Toompea and in Maardu manor on Sunday [3 April] to celebrate the forming of independent Estonia's first government four years ago. Besides Savisaar, Siiri Oviir, Gennadi Golubkov, Tdnis Kaasik, Olev Laanjirv, Ants laos, Jaak Leimann, Vello Lind, Rein Loik, Rein Miller, Juri Raidla, Aleksander Sikkal, Jaak Tamm, Raivo Vare, Tiit Vihi and Harri Eunapuu attended the meeting and signed a joint statement. President Lennart Meri (foreign minister in Savisaar's cabinet) also attended the meeting.

The statement pointed out that the actions of a government have effect only after some years and declared that only history will judge the actions of the present government. Estonia's freedom is not yet irreversible and the necessary national unity is being undermined by the deepening rift between the poor and the wealthy, the former cabinet members warned.

Twelve ministers, including Savisaar and Vihi, held a news conference yesterday. Savisaar called for democratic society, systematic work and the involvement of competent specialists in the government. He also pointed out that politics has degenerated into petty squabbling between different forces.

Tiit Vihi declared that his cabinet did not differ principally from that of Savisaar. Both ex-premiers rejected suggestions that they may be forming a new alliance, but assured that they are both ready to dedicate themselves to Estonia's progress.

Latvia

Ulmanis-Yeltsin Meeting Scheduled for 20 Apr

WS0504155294 Riga LETA in English 1435 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Riga, April 5 (LETA)—Summit meeting of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been scheduled to be held on April 20, according to a spokeswoman of the Latvian president. She said that the date had been suggested by the Russian ambassador here, Aleksandr Rannikh, on behalf of his government. The report has also been confirmed by the Foreign Ministry of Russia.

The spokeswoman said that talks at the governmental level were also set to be held during the visit in Moscow, which means that the Latvian delegation would include also Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs and several members of his cabinet. During his stay, President Ulmanis also plans to visit the city of Krasnoyarsk and its community of ethnic Latvians residing there.

Sergey Zotov, chief Russian negotiator at the Latvian-Russian talks, said that a meeting of the two delegations was expected to be held in the Latvian seaside resort city of Jurmala next week, before the forthcoming summit meeting of the two presidents, in order to finalise the agreements which had been initialed in Moscow last month. [passage omitted]

Russia Said 'Neglecting' Airspace Accord

WS0504201194 Tallinn BNS in English 1750 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 05, BNS—Russia is neglecting the June 2, 1993, agreement with Latvia on the use of the Latvian airspace by Russian military aircraft, officials said.

Moreover, Russia proposed the Latvian Communication Ministry to sign a new agreement which provides for free use of the airspace and airport services, said Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the Latvian bureau monitoring the Russian troop withdrawal.

The Russia-proposed agreement also foresees free movement for aircraft that brings its troops out of Germany.

Under the earlier, neglected document, Russia must pay Latvia for services in accordance with the Communication Ministry tariffs. In total, Russia owes more than 25,500 lats to the Riga airport and 251,500 U.S. dollars to the Latvian Air Communication enterprise.

Russia wants to start all calculations of arrears starting with the day when the new agreement is signed. Latvia, however, insists that the issue of payments be tackled regardless of any further agreements.

Under the draft agreement, Russia will operate free flights in the Latvian airspace to maintain and repatriate Russian troops in the Baltic states and Germany. But, Upmalis said, it would be impossible to detect which flights are actually needed for these purposes.

The Latvian Communication Ministry is unlikely to sign up to the Russian proposal and it will also demand the repayment of the debt, said Uldis Petersons, a spokesman for the ministry.

On the other hand, the new agreement is necessary because the 1993 document was only a purpose agreement, Petersons noted.

Cabinet Members Meet in Jurmala To Discuss Policy

WS0504152794 Tallinn BNS in English 1102 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 05, BNS—The Latvian Cabinet's members participate Tuesday [5 April] in a seminar in Jurmala to discuss national programs.

Economics Minister Ojars Kehris told BNS that the ministers and different specialists will listen to nearly 10 national programs, including projects in environmental protection, energetics development, regional development, and education and science.

The implementation of national programs is closely connected with the territorial planning and investments, therefore Riga chief architect, Janis Asaris, will report on Riga general plan, and the Economics Ministry deputy secretary, Juris Cebulis, will report on state investments program.

The state investments program is meant to help the national programs to integrate into the state budget. Kehris said state budget drafts for 1995, 1996 and 1997 would be discussed during the seminar.

Economics Ministry proposed to discuss the national programs, before they are accepted by the Cabinet, already in January.

Appeal To Annul Part of Withdrawal Pact Rejected

WS0504155394 Riga LETA in English 1435 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, April 5 (LETA)—It is completely out of question not [as received] to sign one separate accord out of the number of agreements which have been initialed in Moscow in early March, for the agreements made a whole inseparable package, said Edvins Inkens, the Minister of Special Assignments, in a statement which was to be understood as the government's reply to an appeal submitted to President Guntis Ulmanis by a nationalist parliamentary faction "Tevzemei Un Brivibai" ("For Fatherland and Freedom"). The faction demanded canceling of the agreement on issues concerning social protection of retired Russian militaries and their families, initialed by the Latvian delegation at Latvian-Russian intergovernmental talks.

The opposition faction claims that the agreement would pave the way for retired Russian militaries to stay and keep living here safely, as it was earlier demanded by the union of war veterans' rights protection.

The Presidium of the Saeima [parliament] on Tuesday [5 April] decided to include the debates on the appeal of the opposition faction into the agenda of an extraordinary session of the parliament due to be held next Friday.

Foreign Ministry Urges Participation in Cocom

LD0504170294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Latvian Government must still adopt a resolution on participation in the Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] organization, the multilateral strategic export control coordination committee (?to) monitor the export of weapons, strategic resources and technology to former countries of the Warsaw Pact and other communist lands. It would be in Latvia's interests to accept this system, because it would stimulate foreign trade and access to investment, chiefly in such fields as electronics, computer systems, and high technology, says a press statement from the Latvian Foreign Ministry. The member states of the Cocom have changed their strategy of activity, to promote the recovery of the market of the former communist countries, at the same time maintaining control over the investigation... [pauses] the spread of weapons, strategic materials, and technology. The situation since the end of the Cold War has changed; that is why the creation of a new organization is planned.

Government To Decide on Membership in COCOM Successor

WS0604111894 Tallinn BNS in English 0913 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 06, BNS—Latvia should decide on joining to a new organization which will be formed on the basis of the Coordinating Committee For Multilateral Strategic Export Controls (COCOM), said Foreign Ministry official Iveta Sers, who participated in a COCOM conference in the Hague.

The conference stated that the international political situation underwent cardinal changes during the last years and the cold war was over.

Consequently, COCOM states decided to alter their strategies to sooner master the markets of ex-communist countries. But they also intend to retain the control over the distribution of weapons, strategic substances and technologies to the former Warsaw Pact foes.

The old COCOM restrictions will remain in place until September when the foundation of the new organization is scheduled. Russia was mentioned among the main founders of the new structure, Sers said.

The Latvian government has to decide on the participation in this new organization yet, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement Tuesday [5 April].

Latvia would be interested to join if the system promoted its foreign trade and foreign capital investment in high-tech spheres like computer technologies and electronics.

Latvia should create its own system of exports control until June in a bid to monitor exports of chemical, biological and other strategic materials to prevent their abuse in military purposes.

The implementation of the anticipated plan may be commissioned to the Latvian Development Agency.

Parliament Considers Proposals on Land Reform

WS0604112094 Tallinn BNS in English 0913 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 06, BNS—Latvia's Cabinet passed for parliament consideration Tuesday [5 April] its proposals for land reform and privatization laws, the Government Information Agency reports.

Under the proposed amendments, legal persons registered in Latvia may become owners of land beneath buildings and constructions they acquired as a result of privatization and land that is needed to build such buildings and constructions.

Physical persons who own land should be allowed to sell it to legal persons, the government said.

The above regulations could be operative until the adoption of a special law on the use of land.

In addition, the government sent the Saeima (parliament) its considerations regarding waivers for public transport users. The new regulations cut the number of eligible passengers considerably.

The group also commissioned the Latvijas Nafta state-operated enterprise to reduce by 4.6 million lats the debt of farmers for fuel supplied in the 1992 spring and autumn season.

The government proposed the Saeima to fine 100 lats to 250 lats for neglect toward rules of non-cash transactions.

Finally, the Cabinet allowed the forestry service to auction 10,000 cubic meters of timber from state-owned felling sites. The acquired resources would be used to reconstruct the Ligatne paper mill.

Lithuania

President Views Arms Scandal, Land Law

WS0604080294 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 29 Mar 94 No. 60 p 2

[Report by Raimonda Rameliene: "The Vilnius Echo of the Meeting"]

[Excerpts] At yesterday's press conference, President A. Brazauskas briefly surveyed the results of the summit meeting of the three Baltic presidents in Palanga and replied to journalists' questions.

Asked why the Palanga meeting did not set up the Council of the Baltic Presidents, A. Brazauskas replied: "Presidents' meetings and contacts should not be squeezed into a fixed and regulated framework." The experience of the Nordic countries also confirms this. Therefore, all the three presidents came to the conclusion that it was inexpedient to establish such an institution.

The free trade agreement among Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania comes into effect as of 1 April. Did not the meeting discuss other inter-state agreements and the possibility of creating a Baltic bloc? According to A. Brazauskas, there was no mention of any blocs. [passage omitted]

As usual, journalists wanted to hear the president's opinion on some pressing domestic policy issues.

Asked whether he, as the chief commander of armed forces, has sanctioned the searches in the national defense system, A. Brazauskas replied: "I as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces deal with the latter rather than with matters of criminal persecution or searches." The state has institutions that must perform this work, although it is sometimes very unpleasant and difficult.

The searches were approved by the Prosecutor General's Office, and the prosecutor general is responsible for this move. "Certainly, it is unpleasant when politics is confused with crime," said the president. Normal persecution should be conducted in line with the Penal Code, while no one should look for sanctions where they should not be. At the same time, the president expressed his discontent with the fact that "television and other mass media want to adopt the role of the prosecutor's office. According to the speaker, "no case can be resolved on the television screen." Such attempts only arouse unnecessary human emotions, "many hints, illusions, reflections, rumors, and so on."

In the president's opinion, such political moves are "too conceited and picturesque, but with no content." It is the latter that law enforcement institutions must find and assess calmly, with skill and responsibility, and without turning it into a show.

A. Brazauskas called the statement by the association "Selma," which threatens to suspend the construction of housing for the Russian military in Kaliningrad and demands the release of association President V. Laurinavicius, a political challenge and a shot into the air. "They have an agreement and must execute it. Judicial institutions will establish whether their president is guilty or not," said the state leader.

Commenting on the conservatives' statement concerning the construction of the oil terminal, the president did not want to agree that it was delayed. The key decisions have already been adopted, and the government should announce the winner of the competition shortly. The issue of financing is urgent. The business plan should be ready by late March, which "will be a good basis for talks with large financial organizations and foreign banks that would undertake to subsidize this endeavor."

Asked about the law on land recently adopted by the Seimas [parliament], A. Brazauskas said that he had received it only that Monday [28 March]. Thus, "the clock has begun counting 10 days and nights" since yesterday, within which time the president must study and discuss the law. The president said that he knew the emotional and even unhealthy reaction that the adoption of the document had caused in the Seimas. Before signing (or rejecting) the law, the president promised to study it thoroughly along with specialists.

Council Set Up To Recover Removed Archives

WS0504201294 Tallinn BNS in English 1750 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 05, BNS - A special group of experts has been set up to the Lithuanian working group for talks with CIS to recover Lithuanian archives kept in Russia. The group is headed by Gediminas Ilgunas, director general of the Lithuanian State Archive.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has sent a note to Russia requesting to set up a similar commission.

The return of archives was discussed March 31 at a meeting between Nikolay Obertyshev, Russia's ambassador to Lithuania, and Albinas Januska, Lithuanian deputy foreign minister. The ambassador reportedly said that Russia has no legal or historic grounds to return archives to Lithuania and sees no purpose to create a commission for talks in order to deal with the problem. Januska said Lithuania reserves the right to negotiate the matter at interstate talks.

In an interview with the RESPUBLIKA newspaper, Ilgunas said the Russian ambassador's statement contradicts the international principles of archiving, according to which, archives must be kept where they are created.

Ilgunas said Russia began taking out Lithuanian archives in the times of the czarist empire. In his words, a collection of legislative acts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and documents of Lithuania's provinces were taken out before 1915. Lithuania archives were also taken out after the Soviet occupation in 1940. The Soviets took a number of documents of the pre-war Lithuanian republic, the archives of the president's office, including the Feb. 16, 1918 Independence Act. Archives were last taken out in 1989-1991 from the KGB building in Vilnius.

KGB criminal and filtration files of the 1940's were recovered in 1992. Russia later said that the files were used against persons mentioned in them, but Ilgunas declined to comment on these allegations.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kuwait

LD0504202594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Kuwait has been signed in Moscow by Lithuanian Ambassador to Russia Romualdas Kozyrovicius, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Fawzi 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Jasim. Kuwait is the 92d state (?that) Lithuania has diplomatic relations with.

LDDP Official on Economic Stability, Elections

WS0604092794 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 29 Mar 94 No. 60 p 5

[Interview with LDDP Deputy Chairman Viktoras Kovsovas by Gintautas Kniuksta in Vilnius; date not given: "Government—Not Only the Prime Minister and Ministers..."]

[Excerpts] [Kniuksta] [Passage omitted] **Late March marks the first anniversary of A. Slezevicius' government. How do you assess your colleagues' work? In your opinion, what did they manage or fail to accomplish? It is easier for you as a person who does not hold any office in the executive sector to notice what should be corrected immediately.**

[Kovsovas] A year is a short period of time, but social hostility has decreased and political tensions have subsided. A community of citizens is being created, even though with difficulty and contradictions, and quite often with mistakes and scandals. I suppose that this is a large contribution of A. Slezevicius' government.

Let us not forget that this government curbed inflation, introduced the litas, hit a blow to organized crime, and had the Russian Army withdrawn. I think that many people notice other smaller or greater deeds. However, I also see things that, in my opinion, are being done improperly.

First of all, the government is not only the prime minister and ministers. I have heard repeated reprimands that good deeds or plans often stall and "die" in the middle level of ministries. It is the government's task to ensure that each employee values his or her job and strives after results, and that good and unselfish work is properly rewarded.

[Kniuksta] **You often tour regions. How do people in the province assess the activities of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP]? Do you write a diary or like to make predictions, for example, concerning the elections to local councils, after such trips? By the way, what results do you expect from these elections?**

[Kovsovas] LDDP activities are assessed in different ways—from categorical negation and politicized appraisals to moderate approval. I have the impression that most people are well aware of the difficult economic situation and possibilities, they advise us to be more courageous and resolute. [passage omitted]

[Kniuksta]**Regarding economic stability, some people say that the LDDP should overcome the crisis in Lithuania over 1994 and 1995. At the same time, there are people who shout that the LDDP is incapable of ruling the state and demand new elections to the Seimas [parliament].**

[Kovsovas] Economic stability can be assessed from different aspects, depending on the criteria we choose. I think that the rate of economic decline is falling, which means that

positive changes are inevitable. There will be many reasons responsible for the nature of the latter and the time of their emergence. One of them is stability in the political situation and government activities. Talk about LDDP's incompetence in governing the country or even its damaging rule only demonstrates the reluctance or inability of political opponents to see the real situation.

The LDDP and its leaders have not discussed early elections to the Seimas. I suppose that the constant propaganda of this idea is one of the methods for trying to disseminate uncertainty, indefiniteness, and doubt. This implies that one should not communicate, help, or show effort, but must condemn and hate. Such principles are not beneficial for our small country.

[Kniuksta] [Passage omitted]**Currently, many political parties are inclined to accuse the LDDP for not adhering to its electoral promises. For example, Social Democrat A. Sakalas remembers in one of his interviews that after learning the results of the elections, your colleague G. Kirkilas [LDDP first deputy chairman] held his head in the hands saying: "What are we going to do now?" Are not such explanations similar to the desire to cool one's tea, although it will cool off by itself over time.**

[Kovsovas] I will not hide the fact that the results of the Seimas elections partly exceeded our predictions. We can only advise that those who accuse us of failing to implement the program take and read it. The program does not contain many items of which we are often accused. However, it reads that we will put an end to social opposition and instigation, and seek to stabilize the economic decline.

Unfortunately, politics is not a class or a school [reference to Kovsovas' former occupation as a school teacher]. The student and sometimes also the teacher must think about the possibility of correcting the committed mistake. Political mistakes often affect thousands of people. Constituents at least authorize other people to correct mistakes committed by separate politicians and political forces.

[Kniuksta]**As for a coalition with other parties, the same man A. Sakalas has stated that the Social Democrats cannot form a coalition with the LDDP because the latter is not a homogeneous party today. According to Mr. Sakalas, it is a compilation of people with three or four views: Nomeklatura, the prosocial democratic university group, old functionaries, and quite a large group representing big capital. What would be your reply?**

[Kovsovas] One could really not reprimand the Social Democrats for a lack of attention to the LDDP. We are grateful for this. I do not know a single homogeneous party in Lithuania. Each political organization, and the press has also reported on the Social Democrats, is based on different people.

Reflections about the composition of other parties only show that one assumes to know more about the party in question. The use of such words as "functionaries" and "nomenklatura" reflects the desire to belittle and humiliate someone. [passage omitted]

Government Indexes Wage Rate, Social Payments

WS0604085394 Vilnius ELTA in English 2308 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 471]

[Text] Vilnius, April 5, ELTA—Lithuanian Government indexed the wage rate and other social payments.

From April 1 the minimum standard of living has made 48 litas a month per person. The minimum wage rate has made 53 litas, the minimum pay per hour should not be lower than 0.32 litas.

Pensioners who do not work also have been allotted bigger pensions. The pensions for them have been increased by five percent.

Trade Unions Discuss Tripartite Agreement

WS0604090394 Vilnius ELTA in English 2308 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 471]

[Text] Vilnius, April 5, ELTA—Lithuanian trade unions attempt to introduce to Lithuania tripartite social agreement system based on the western patterns. The problems related to the establishment of the system were discussed at a news conference on Tuesday [5 April]. Members of the association of trade unions participated in the news conference.

One of the participants, Roma Dovydeniene, said that social partnership existed in Lithuania only on the theoretical basis. According to her, none of 42 international working union conventions were ratified by Lithuania with the exception of a few ones which had been ratified before the war.

Trade unions have been seeking that a tripartite agreement on the cooperation in the job market should be signed among employers, Government and trade unions since November, 1993. According to the participants of the news conference, the employers—businessmen and industrialists—were not ready to sign such agreement. Thus trade unions consider possibilities of signing the agreement with Government.

Leaders of the trade unions regretted that Seimas [parliament] had not approved amendments of the draft law on trade unions and labour. Trade unions demanded that a certain procedure should be legalized according to which the employee could not be dismissed from the job without the approval of trade unions.

Seimas also rejected the demand that members of trade unions could not be dismissed from their jobs without the approval of trade unions. No approval was given to the demand to supplement the law on trade unions with a provision which would oblige the employer to allot money for the education and further qualification of members of trade unions.

So trade unions appealed to the president with the request not to approve the amendments of the laws on job contract and trade union.

Dainius Paukste said that estimations showed that trade unions united 25-30 percent of working people in Lithuania.

The association of the Lithuanian trade unions unites nine trade unions with 81 thousand members.

Defense Official Provides Conscription Figures

WS0604112194 Tallinn BNS in English 0913 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 06, BNS—3,500 men will be called up for mandatory service in the Lithuanian armed forces during this year's spring conscription.

Major Gediminas Jurciukonis, assistant head of the Voluntary Defense Service headquarters, said some 11,000 men aged above 19 could be called up but only 30-40 percent of recruits are fit for military service.

The conscription will not affect university students, men aged above 27, clergymen of registered religious communities, persons sentenced to jail terms of over three years, fathers of two or more children and men who are the only bread-winners in their families.

Jurciukonis said over 60 percent of recruits are expected to report to call-up commissions this year. The major said 57 and 49 percent reported to call-up commissions during last year's fall and spring conscriptions respectively.

Those who will not report to call-up commissions will be fined 106 lits. 1,600 men were fined last year but only half of them paid the fines. Those who do not report to a commission repeatedly may face legal action.

This year, recruits are examined by medical boards at local hospitals, which should make the selection better, Jurciukonis said. In his words, 5 percent of the recruits called up last year were later pronounced unfit for military service.

Produce Regulation Council Sets Grain Quota

WS0604084194 Vilnius ELTA in English 2308 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 471]

[Text] Vilnius, April 5, ELTA—Council of the regulation and coordination of the produce purchase which had been formed at the Government held a meeting on Tuesday [5 April].

Chairman of the Council, Agricultural Minister Rimantas Karazija informed that the only quota foreseen for the current year was the quota for the purchase of grain - 400 thousand tonnes. No quotas for forage grains were imposed by the council this year.

Four Lithuanian sugar refineries should purchase 680 thousand tonnes of sugar-beets from farmers. The processing enterprises still have debts as high as 46 million litas for producers.

Coordination Group Against Organized Crime Formed

WS0604084294 Vilnius ELTA in English 2308 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 471]

[Text] Vilnius, April 5, ELTA—A coordination group for the prevention of organized crime was formed by a decree issued by president.

The group includes Seimas vice-chairman, justice and interior ministers, prosecutor general, director general of security service, a state inspector, heads of Seimas committees, representatives of customs department, president's office and other institutions, 14 officials all in all.